



SIPA

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Quarterly

MALTA'S
X-MAS 2

PENNY BLACK
& RED 10

Editorial :

TANAPEX 2025

Chennai witnessed a grand philatelic festival TANAPEX-2025, from Wednesday 29.01.2025 to Saturday 01.02.2025 at Amma Arangam, Shenoy Nagar.

An innovation filled, enthusiasm injected carnival of philately was gone through by thousands of energy packed students of a number of schools (many international) with lots of joy and happiness for their outing outside their school walls. But awareness and absorption of philately taken by them within the time they were allowed to run around the displayed frames *GOK.

However Chennai's philatelic fraternity is thankful for India Post and its head in Chennai Madam Mariamma Thomas for bringing this exhibition at a comparatively short notice and making one and all of us to be a part of the grand show by mobilising an efficient army of staff with a few minor aberrations listed below. On the whole everything went on well to the enjoyment of one and all.

1. Postponement of Inauguration by 2 full hours which made some to go to their regular work.
2. Confusion in the frame numbers allotted and displayed at the hall.
3. 'Mixing up' of adult classes in the numerical order of exhibits.
4. Jumbling of programmes on all days. depriving visitors leave disappointed.
5. Catalogue distribution system, free at the entrance and Rs.5/- in stall no.1, in IIInd Floor.

*GOK - God only knows

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6. Lack of Hospitality to the dealers who have paid Rs.10,000/- per stall. (including irregular supply of drinking water).
7. Peculiar Mega-Quiz Pattern which had a 5 minutes 'write - up question' as the first one. Is it an innovation?
8. Very much "usefull to philately" sessions of Calligraphy (Two)
9. Non-utilisation of talented and active local commune for Post Crossing event.
10. Depriving few Bronze awardees (youth) of medals for 'want of medals'. It is nothing but cheating the young aspirant competitors.
11. Having two uploaded online editions of Souvenirs within four days for the same function.
12. Making SIPA - so called supporter - pay Rs.10,000/- for stall for the first time in the history of TANAPEX and SIPA as if the Organisers were in funds-crunch.

Overall, the big match is over, all are winners, the spirit won the game and thanks to one and all who organised to their hearts content.

- Editor

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MALTA'S ICONIC CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Mr.Ravikumar
Life Member,
SIPA, Chennai.

Several countries, beginning with GB especially those with a Christian majority, issue Christmas stamps every year between October and December. While today it has become a tradition, Christmas stamps were considered a novelty in the 1950s.

Likewise, Malta issued its first Christmas stamp in November 1964, two months after becoming independent. Since then, the annual stamp calendar has always included a Christmas set.

From 1964 to 1979, all the Christmas stamps issued by Malta were designed by Emanuel Vincent Cremona (Emvin Cremona), a Maltese artist and stamp designer. During his career, which started in 1957, Emvin Cremona designed 16 Christmas sets, which showed his creative expression.



Figure 1: Emvin Cremona
(Source: Times of Malta)

Given his artistic background, Cremona used intense colours in all his designs. Gold was a common feature in most of Cremona's designs. However, he kept it aside in stamps featuring works of art. Cremona gave great importance to 'stars' in the Christmas designs.

Cremona's initial Christmas stamp designs consisted of traditional nativity scenes like the Vatican-style stamps in different colours. He then introduced triptychs. These stamps were printed on a conventional stamp sheet featuring the same value and another sheet depicting the triptychs. In the early 1970s, he introduced miniature sheets. In the late 1970s, he introduced different stamp shapes depicting the traditional British style set.

VATICAN - STYLE

The first Christmas set issued on 3 November 1964 had three stamps showing the Holy Family in the company of shepherds in an Italian-style crib. A white star filled the



figure 2 : 1964

sky. The stamps had the same design but were printed in different colours. The low value had bright purple, the middle value had bright blue, and the highest value had deep bluish-green. All stamps included gold.

The 1965 Christmas set showed the arrival of the Magi.



figure 3 : 1965

The 1966 Christmas set showed the Holy Family.



figure 4 : 1966

By using Gold, Cremona made the stamps look classical and modern at the same time.

TRIPTYCHS

The 1967 Christmas stamps featured a triptych of three designs, forming one composite design. The first triptych had several unique features. The stamps were in trapezium shape. The central design showed the Holy Family as the main theme in the middle value. Above this scene is a group formed by a Madonna, a child in a manger, and an angel. On both sides of this group, there were sets of angels.

The 1969 Christmas stamps, in triptych design,



figure 5 : 1967



figure 6 : 1969

showed the Mdina Cathedral and bastions as background. Each of the three values had a characteristic local theme. The low value had musical crib figures; the middle value included two angels, and the high value included a choir. This set started the tradition of surcharging for local charities.

The 1975 Christmas stamps in triptych design showed the nativity scene in a 'European' setting.



figure 7 : 1975

MINIATURE SHEETS

After the triptych, Cremona extended the issue further by introducing miniature sheets in Maltese stamps. These were started in 1971 and continued for two more years.

The first miniature sheet design spreads over two stamps: an Angel on top and a Madonna with a Child at the bottom. The highest-valued third stamp featured a shepherd. The rest of the miniature sheet included a flower design and several angels.



figure 8 :
1971

The 1972 miniature sheet design included a 'baroque' circular design and another similar design on the top. The stamps featured three angels, two with wings and one with both wings and a musical instrument.



figure 9 :
1972

The 1973 miniature sheet features a collection of Emvin Cremona's style stars and three stamps. The lower-value stamps feature heads of choir singers and organ

pipes, and the Madonna, a Babe, and a star. The highest-value stamp shows urban architectural features with candles and musical instruments.



figure 10 :
1973

BRITISH-STYLE

Emvin Cremona designed traditional Christmas stamp sets with some novelties. For example, the 1968 Christmas stamps were in a pentagon shape, each with a different design. The low-value stamp featured Cremona's favoured Christmas theme—angels. The middle-value stamp showed the shepherds' adoration, while the high-value stamp featured the arrival of the Magi. In this set, the word 'Christmas' was replaced by the Maltese word 'Milied.'



figure 11 :
1968

In the 1970 Christmas stamp, Cremona showed three churches—a countryside chapel, the Gharb Parish Church, and the Mdina Cathedral. Each stamp design included angels, a bright white Cremona-style star, and three Maltese Christmas scenes—the Christmas Eve procession, the Nativity, and the Shepherds' scenes.



figure 12 : 1970

The 1974 Christmas tradition stamp set consisted of four values. Each design had a Cremona multi-coloured star with gold trimmings. The story of the Nativity was spread over the four values.

The 1979 Christmas stamp set is the last Christmas design from Emvin Cremona. It shows two large frescoes that adorn the Annunciation Parish Church of Tarxien in Malta.

These works of art were created by Giuseppe Cali. The set included four values—two featured a part of the fresco, and the other two depicted the whole work of art.



figure 13 : 1974



figure 14 : 1979

All these folkloristic Christmas themes made Cremona's Christmas stamp designs more interesting, and philatelists welcomed and enjoyed them.

Author :



An IT Professional who is working as a senior information Developer at Applian corporation, in Chennai, is a 'MALTA Specialist' and also collects Philatelic materials on Madras and Nilgris religiously. He has exhibited upto Nationals and won high awards.

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ADLETS - FREE

(For life members - upto 5 lines)

- * For sale : Special covers, mainly GI Covers, at a discount;. Interested members contact 9444124285
- * For sale : Three frame thematic collections - Bronze level - Can be developed to silver - Ships - Pollution - Chess - Football - United nations - Heritage India - India Post. Contact : 9710412073.

SALT SATYAGRHA IN TAMILNADU A PHILATELIC TRIBUTE

Ms.Shruthikaa Balaji, (Age 16)
Life Member, SIPA

Sometime back there was an interesting news item about recreating the Salt March in Tamil Nadu, by none other than Mr. C D Kesavan, the great grandson of Rajaji and A.Vedaratnam the grandson of Sardar A Vedaratnam. The team embarked on a 'padayatra' from Tiruchirappalli and ended at the Salt pan in Vetharanyam, as a remembrance to the famous Salt Satyagraha at Vedaranyam in 1930.

Not content with mindless exploitation and driven by sheer greed, the British rulers pushed the Indians to the edge of the rock cliff, by imposing higher taxes on salt that comes from ubiquitous sea water. Being a tropical country, almost every Indian food item needs indispensable salt and therefore higher levy of tax on salt affected every common folk across the country. This forced Gandhiji to launch the Salt March on April 06, 1930 from Sabarmati to the coastal village of Dandi, on the west coast of Gujarat to collect salt as a mark of protest against the higher sales tax of British.

Salt Satyagraha also called "The Great Salt March", a major non-violent movement led by Mahatma Gandhi was the first act in an even-larger campaign of civil disobedience movement that he waged against the British rule in India. This garnered widespread support among the Indian populace and evoked considerable worldwide attention.

In support of this Dandi Salt March, each Province in India followed its own way of waging protest. In Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Rajaji, a close associate of Gandhiji, a Salt march was organised. Called as 'Vetharanyam Salt march' this event is considered as an important milestone in Tamil Nadu's struggle for freedom to put an end to British Imperialism. Following is a brief account of this memorable event interspersed with philatelic materials associated with this.

Rajaji organised a meeting in Vellore in January 1930 wherein it was decided to conduct salt Satyagraha in Tamilnadu with a march by a group of Satyagrahis from Trichy City to Vedaranyam on the Tanjore coast to break the Salt law.

Young Vedaratnam, who had successfully organised a mammoth Congress working committee meeting in 1929 at Vedaranyam was chosen to make all arrangements.



Rajaji

Out of over a thousand volunteers Rajaji carefully had chosen around 100 highly motivated people with true patriotic zeal, which included K. Kamaraj, K. Baktavachalam, Kakkan, A Vaidyanatha Iyer, Rukmini Lakshmipathy and T.S.S.Rajan. The March to cover a long stretch of 150 miles (240 km) commenced on 13 April, 1930, the Tamil New year day from the house of T.S.S. Rajan, in Trichinopoly (Tiruchirappalli) Cantonment. A special song composed for the march by Namakkal Kavizhar V Ramalingam with the lines "A war is ahead sans sword, sans bloodshed...Join this march"



K. Kamaraj



M Baktavatchalam



A Vaidyanatha Iyer



Kakkan



Namakkal Ramalingam

(குத்தியின்றி ரத்தமின்றி
யுத்தம் ஒன்று வருகுது)

was sung by the volunteers during their march.

As the march proceeded toward adjacent Tanjore (now Thanjavur) district, its tough District Collector J. A. Thorne, ICS tried to stop it at any cost.

Through newspapers, Tamil handbills etc, Thorne warned that anyone offering food or shelter to the marchers was liable to six-months' imprisonment and also a fine. Upon hearing Collector Thorne's severe, but inimical warning, Rajaji in his crisp style replied, "Thorne and thistles cannot stem this tide of freedom."

Bandulu Iyer, a former MLA and a resident of Kumbakonam, defied the British order and gave shelter to the marchers for two days and arranged a big party for them at his house. For this he was arrested and sentenced to six months in prison. A few government employees who welcomed the rally in Semmangudi lost their jobs. Throughout the march, A Vedaratnam of Vedaranyam who

wielded enormous influence in the area stood as a guardian and ensured that the marchers did not face any troubles enroute.

On April 25, the marchers reached Thiruthuraipoondi and planned to stay at an inn run by Sardar's close associate Ramachandran. They took a circuitous route to Vadaranyam to evade the British police. Despite the Collector's warning, Ramachandran offered shelter to the marchers at his inn. The police arrested him the next day for his action. It scared the people. But Vedaratnam convinced the people that they could provide food without getting caught by the police. On his idea locals tied food packets to the branches of roadside trees and water bottles in pits dug near the trees. The police, who were deployed to quell the procession, were also starving as all food stalls were closed and locals denied them food and water. Indian servants employed by the British stopped doing their daily work, barbers and laundrers refused to serve the civil servants. Due to the good and brave efforts of Thiruthuraipoondi Ramachandran and Vedaratnam, the marchers advanced without much risk.

After an arduous and horrendous march under scorching April sun, the Satyagrahis reached Vedaranyam on the 29th April where Vedaratnam Pillai had put up two huge pandals on his land to accommodate the marchers. Next morning Rajaji openly broke the salt law. The Police swung into action and arrested Rajaji and sentenced him to six-months' imprisonment, along with other marchers. The only woman participant Rukmini Lakshmipathi was also arrested and jailed for one year; She was the first woman to serve a jail term for participating in the Salt Satyagraha movement in India. Kamaraj was arrested for calling 300 people to volunteer for the march and inciting them to make salt. As he did not deny the charges, he was sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment. Despite many arrests, people continued to make salt defying the salt law. On the whole, 375 persons were arrested in the district.



Rukmini Lakshmipathi

Among the leaders who courted arrest, Rajaji, K. Kamaraj, M Baktavatsalam, Rukmini Lakshmipathi, A Vaidyanatha Iyer, Sardar Vedaratnam were honoured by the release of commemorative stamps in their honour by India Post. A memorial pillar was erected in Vedaranyam and another pillar at the place from where the Salt march started in Tiruchirappalli.

It is necessary to mention of the pivotal role played by Vedaratnam who stood as the backbone of the march to

counter all the onslaught by the British government. First Day cover issued to commemorate vedaratnam pillai on 25.02.1998. In violation of the order of the British



government, Vedaratnam helped the marchers in all kinds of ways. For ensuring the successful conduct of the salt march, he was imposed with three kinds of punishments, confiscation of his property, imposition of fine of Rs 200, besides rigorous imprisonment for six months.

His helpful attitude, heroic deeds and identification with people earned him a unique place in the heart of Gandhiji. That is why he was given the honorary title of "Sardar" in the first Tamil Nadu Farmers Conference held in Tirunelveli in December 1931. He is also best remembered by his philanthropic activities like the establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Kanya Gurukulam, which provides free education with boarding and lodging for poor girls at Vedaranyam.

Besides Vedaranyam, salt satyagraha was conducted in many places of Tamil Nadu like Marina Beach at Madras, Sholinganallur and Tuticorin and in small coastal villages like Killai, Owari, Devanampattinam and Tharuvaikulam, which imbibed the spirit of nationalism among the minds of people. The commendable role in conducting Salt Satyagraha on the Gandhian model in Tamil Nadu was yet another death knell tolled to pack the British rulers off back to England.

Author :



Ms. Shruthikaa Balaji, a student of APL Global School, Thuraipakkam, Chennai, is collecting stamps on topics like Birds, Toponomy, Sports and postal history. She has exhibited in various Regional, Circle & National exhibitions and has won awards. With a passion for writing she has published articles in Souvenirs and presented papers in seminars of national importance.

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POST CROSSING IN INDIA - 2023

Dr.T.Jaisakthivel

Chennai.

12 Feb, 2023, DELHI Postcrossing Enthusiasts gather at Amritpex 2023.

On February 12th, 2023, stamp collectors and members of the Postcrossing community came together at the National Philatelic Exhibition, Amritpex, organized by India Post. The meetup, held at Amritpex Hall No.5 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, saw postcrossing enthusiasts gather at 11.30 am IST.

The event provided a space for attendees to meet fellow stamp collectors and sign specially designed postcards. Participants were also encouraged to spread their love for letter writing and philately by inspiring visitors to join the Postcrossing community.

Postcrossing meetup concluded on the 12th, providing a vibrant space for hobbyists to connect and celebrate their shared passion.

25th March, 2023, BENGALURU Holds Meetup to Remember Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev

A Postcrossing meet-up was held on Saturday, March 25th, 2023 at the Sandesha Museum of Communication, Bangalore to commemorate the martyrdom of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev. The event, titled "Remembering Our Heroes," was organized by the Postcrossing Community and aimed to honor the sacrifices of these Indian revolutionaries.

Bhagat Singh, a national hero in India's freedom struggle, was hanged by British colonists at the young age of 23. The meet-up served as a platform to discuss his life and legacy, along with those of his comrades Rajguru and Sukhdev, who were also martyred on the same day.

The event featured a special meet-up card designed by a renowned artist from Punjab.

25th March, 2023, Celebrating Nature : BENGALURU Postcrossing Meetup Held successfully in

The Celebrating Nature : Bengaluru Postcrossing Meetup was held on March 25, 2023, at Meghdoot Annexe, GPO Bangalore. The meetup focused on celebrating nature and promoting postcrossing.

The event commenced at 10.30 IST with a meet-and-greet session. This was followed by an introduction to postcrossing and brief talks about World Sparrow Day, World Water Day, and World Forestry Day. A special meet-up postcard was also released at the event. The latter half of the meetup involved participants signing postcards and enjoying refreshments.

1 May 2023 VADODARA Postcrossers Celebrate Gujarat Foundation Day in Style.

On May 1st, 2023, a group of enthusiastic philatelists gathered at the Lord Shiva Temple near Gate No.2 of Sayajibaug University to celebrate Gujarat Foundation Day and participate in an official Postcrossing meetup.

The event, which began at 10.00 AM, served as a dual celebration - a chance to honor the state's rich heritage and a platform for Postcrossers to connect and share their love for stamps and postcards.

Following the discussion, participants put pen to paper, signing specially designed Postcrossing meetup cards and filling them with greetings for fellow collectors worldwide.

Attendees were encouraged to bring their own writing supplies, decorative items, and a selection of postcards to send, trade, or simply share and admire. Additionally, having the adequate postage stamps on hand proved beneficial for those eager to immediately dispatch their postcards.

BANGLORE Postcrossing Community Celebrates Mothers with Fun Meetup 14th May, 2023.

The Bangalore Postcrossing Community gathered on Mother's Day, May 14th, 2023, at Urban Solace for a heartwarming meetup. The event, held from 10.30 AM to 1.30 PM IST, served as a way to celebrate mothers while enjoying the shared passion of Postcrossing.

The meetup Kicked off with the unveiling of a special Mother's Day-themed postcard, a delightful touch for the occasion.

Members exchanged stories about unique finds, the thrill of receiving postcards from distant lands, and the joy of connecting with people worldwide through this unique hobby.

More than just a hobby group, the meetup highlighted the importance of expressing gratitude to mothers. The overall theme was one of appreciation and togetherness, making it a memorable way to celebrate Mother's Day.

Postcrossing Club of LUDHIANA Hosts Successful 5th Annual Meetup! 28th May, 2023.

The Postcrossing Club of Ludhiana held its 5th annual meetup on May 28th, 2023, at Cakes & Coffee on Pakhowal Road. The event was a resounding success, in bringing together local postcard enthusiasts for a day of socializing, sharing their love of the hobby, and writing postcards to be sent around the world.

The meetup offered a variety of activities for attendees, including :

Postcard Swapping : Participants had the opportunity to exchange postcards from their collections.

Signing and Sharing : Attendees could sign specially designed meetup postcards and share their own postcard collections.

Writing Extravaganza; The meetup provided a dedicated space for attendees to write postcards to be sent out to new designations.

11th June, 2023, Postcrossing Enthusiasts gather in BANGALORE for Stamp Chat and Fun

Stamp collectors and pen pals who connect through the online platform Postcrossing came together on June 11th, 2023, for an unique meetup at the GPO, Bangalore (560001). The event, held from 11 AM to 12.30PM, provided a space for Postcrossers to connect, discuss their love of stamps, and celebrate the joy of international mail.

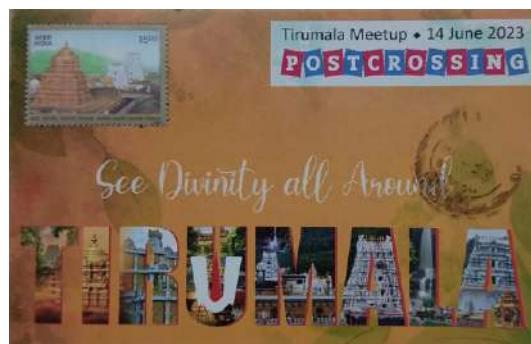
The meetup kicked off with introduction, of everyone followed by a lively discussion on the fascinating world of Postcrossing stamps, where attendees shared their favorite finds and interesting discoveries.

A highlight of the event was the release of a special meetup postcard, a cherished collectible for those who attended.

The meetup concluded with a casual "Chai-Coffee-Chat,"

14th June, 2023, 1st Postcrossing Meetup in TIRUMALA

The 1st ever Postcrossing Meetup in Tirumala was held on June 14th, 2023, at the Tirumala Sub Post Office (517504) from 10:00 AM to 12:30PM IST. This event brought together postcard enthusiasts from the Tirumala region and neighboring areas, fostering a spirit of community and celebrating the joy of exchanging postcards.



The event marked a significant milestone for the Tirumala postcrossing community, providing a platform for members to connect, share their passion for postcards, and exchange stories. A special commemorative postcard was unveiled to celebrate the 1st Postcrossing Tirumala Meetup, offering a unique collector's item for attendees.

24th June, 2023, VISAKHAPATNAM Postcrossing Meetup-A Recap :

Postcard enthusiasts in Visakhapatnam came together on June 24th, 2023, for a delightful evening of

postcrossing fun at the Percolator Cafe, R.K. Beach. The Visakhapatnam Postcrossing Meetup, a resounding success, brought together a community of passionate individuals who share love for the art of exchanging postcards.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of engaging activities, including : Participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves, share their postcrossing journeys, and forge new friendships with fellow enthusiasts. A lively exchange of postcards ensued, filled with vibrant designs, interesting stories, and heartfelt messages. Attendees had the chance to personalize specially designed postcrossing meetup cards, adding a unique touch to their collections.

29 July, 2023 Postcrossing Wizards Unite in BANGALORE to Celebrate Harry Potter's Birthday :

Muggles and magic folk alike gathered at The Bharat Scouts and Guides Camp on Palace Road on July 29th, 2023, to celebrate the Boy Who Lived's birthday with a special Postcrossing meet-up. Organized by local Postcrossing enthusiasts, the event brought together fans of the Harry Potter series.

The agenda for the day revolved around celebrating Harry Potter's birthday and fostering a love for philately. Attendees enjoyed : Signing unique Harry Potter-themed postcards. The meet-up provided a platform for Bangalore's Postcrossing community to connect, share their passion for the written word, and celebrate the magic of Harry Potter.

12 August, 2023, Elephant Day Meetup, MYSURU :

On August 12th, 2023, elephant enthusiasts gathered in Mysuru for the Elephant Day Meetup, held at Sihi in Vani Vilas Mohalla. The event, which ran from 9 am to 12 pm, provided a casual and friendly atmosphere for people to connect over their shared love of elephants.

The meetup offered a relaxed agenda, focusing on fostering connections among elephant enthusiasts. Attendees enjoyed meeting new people, sharing stories and experiences, and engaging in conversations about these magnificent creatures.

13th August, 2023, International Joint Meetup Celebrates India-China Cultures in BANGALORE :

Postcrossing enthusiasts from India gathered in Bangalore on Sunday, August 13th 2023, for an unique cultural exchange event. The International Joint Meetup, held at the Bookworm Bookstore on Church Street, brought together hobbyists to celebrate their shared love of postcards and cultural exchange.

The event featured a video call with Chinese postcrossers, allowing participants to connect directly and discuss their cultural similarities. Attendees also signed beautiful postcards designed by Chinese artists and explored the vibrant Church Street, a hub for postcards and stationery.

"The International Joint Meetup was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate two cultures through a shared passion," said organizer of the event. "We were thrilled to see the enthusiasm and camaraderie among the participants, and we hope this event will inspire future cultural exchanges."

3rd Sep, 2023, PUNE Celebrates Ganesh Festival with Postcrossing Meet-up

An unique gathering took place in Pune on September 3rd, 2023, celebrating the Ganesh Festival alongside the global phenomenon of Postcrossing. The Pune Meet-up, held at the city's GPO General Post Office, brought together enthusiasts to enjoy the festive spirit and connect through the art of exchanging postcards.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address, followed by a special address by India Post officials commemorating the occasion with a unique Ganesh Festival postmark release. Attendees were then delighted to unveil the specially designed Postcrossing postcard, a charming memento of the festival.

The heart of the meetup was the Postcrossing meet itself, where participants exchanged postcards from their collections. To further enhance the experience, attendees enjoyed a delicious local cuisine lunch before embarking on an optional local visit to witness the Ganesh Festival celebrations across Pune.

30th Sept, 2023, Postcrossing KOLKATA Holds First Meetup at GPO

On September 30th, 2023, the Postcrossing Kolkata community gathered for their first official meetup at the historic General Post Office (GPO) located on Netaji Subhas Road. The event coincided with the festive spirit surrounding Durga Puja, making it an even more joyous occasion for attendees.

The meetup, held from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm IST.

A special highlight of the meetup was the release of a commemorative picture postcard and a customized meetup day cover, both designed to celebrate Kolkata's rich heritage and culture.



The first Kolkata meetup proved to be a successful event, bringing together like-minded individuals and promoting the art of postcrossing within the city.

1st Oct, 2023, LUDHIANA Postcrossing Club Celebrates World Postcard Day :

The Ludhiana Postcrossing Club hosted a successful meetup on October 1st, 2023, in honor of World

Postcard Day. The event, held at Cakes & Coffee on Pakhowal Road, brought together local enthusiasts for an evening of socializing, postcard swapping, and celebrating the joy of snail mail.

The meetup offered a variety of activities for attendees. The event fostered a warm and friendly atmosphere, allowing attendees to discuss their love of postcards and experiences from around the world. A highlight of the meetup was the chance to exchange postcards, adding new and exciting pieces to personal collections.

Attendees had the opportunity to sign special World Postcard Day postcards, further commemorating the occasion.

OCT 2023, DEHRADUN Postcrossers Celebrate World Postcrossing Day :

Postcrossing enthusiasts in Dehradun came together on Sunday, October 1st, 2023, to celebrate World Postcrossing meetup in the city to be registered on the Postcrossing website.

A special World Postcrossing Day meetup postcard was also unveiled at the event, adding a commemorative touch to the gathering. The successful meetup signifies Dehradun's growing Postcrossing community and paves the way for future gatherings.

1st Oct, 2023, Postcard Enthusiasts Celebrate World Postcard Day in BENGALURU :

Postcard lovers in Bengaluru gathered at WeWork, Prestige Central, Infantry Road on October 1st, 2023, to celebrate World Postcard Day. The meetup provided a space for fellow "postcrossers" to connect, share their passion for the hobby, sign commemorative meet-up cards, and simply enjoy each other's company.



This Bengaluru event was part of larger nationwide celebration. In twelve different cities across India, including New Delhi, Vadodara, Prayagraj, Chennai, Coimbatore, Anand, Shimla, Dehradun, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, and Mumbai, postcrossers and philatelists (stamp collectors) assembled at designed locations, such as the Meghdoot Auditorium in Bangalore.

The highlight of the national event was the virtual connection established between all participating cities through Zoom, allowing for interaction among all participants. This fostered a sense of community and shared passion for the art of postcards.

Another exciting feature of the event was the release of a special picture postcard designed to act as an "ambassador of India to the world." Additionally,

participating philatelic societies and clubs issued unique postcards showcasing their regional culture and heritage.

11th Oct, 2023, MUMBAI Celebrates Philately Day with Postcrossing Meetup at GPO :

The Maharashtra Postal Circle celebrated Philately Day on October 11th, 2023, at the Mumbai GPO Auditorium as part of Postal Week 2023 festivities. The event included a special Postcrossing Meetup for enthusiasts of the global postcard exchange project.

A special cancellation was released by the Maharashtra Postal Circle to mark the occasion. A special pack of postcards was unveiled specifically for the event. A special meetup postcard was also made available for attendees. A philatelic counter was set up at the venue, offering stamps and other postal stationery to philatelists. The Postcrossing Meetup provided a platform for collectors and enthusiasts to connect, share their passion for postcards, and exchange stories from around the world.

4th Nov, 2023, ALIGARH Hosts 1st Postcrossing Meetup at ALPEX-23 :

The Nature International School in Aligarh played host to the city's first-ever Postcrossing Meetup on November 4th, 2023, coinciding with the 1st District Level Philatelic Exhibition (ALPEX-23).

"The goal was to introduce children and the general public to the world of Postcrossing," said organizer of the meetup. "We wanted to create a space where people could learn about the program, write their own postcards, and discover the joy of connecting with others through the mail."

The meetup featured a small workshop on Postcrossing, guiding participants on how to join the platform and exchange postcards internationally.

A special highlight of the meetup was the release of a commemorative "meetup-card" designed to mark the occasion. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to participate in discussions, games, and a seminar related to Postcrossing. The success of the 1st Postcrossing Meetup in Aligarh paves the way for future events that promote culture exchange and the art of letter writing.

Author :



Dr. T. Jai Sakthivel, Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Communication at the University of Madras, has an impressive career in the realm of communication. He is the author of 12 books delving into the fascinating world of international radio and Ham radio. Dr. Jai Sakthivel is a collector of radio-related stamps and has exhibited up to National level with awards. Currently, Dr. Jai Sakthivel is embarking on a book about the Postcrossing.

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ROYAL MAIL'S REPRODUCTION OF PENNY BLACK AND PENNY RED

Mr. Abhijit De,
Life Member, SIPA,
Chennai.

PART 1

INTRODUCTION :

One of the latest revolutions in the the history of communications has taken place in recent years , with the introduction of flexible tariffs by the various Mobile service operators,which has made this service affordable to even the street vendors, and road side mechanics and electricians, for whom this usage extends beyond just voice communication ,as it enables them to receive or making online payments too.

A similar revolution took place in 1840 , when the first 1 penny postage stamp was introduced in Britain, making it easy for anyone to send a basic letter up to half an ounce in weight ,by post to any part of United Kingdom for only 1 penny , thus replacing a service that could be afforded only by the Elite , because earlier the postage rate varied according to the weight ,distance and destination, and the cost had to be paid for by the person who received the letter. Another disadvantage was that the receiver may or may not accept and pay for the letter.

The Penny Black , the first adhesive stamp of its type in the world , which was introduced officially on 6th May 1840 ,became the model that made postage affordable to all, and was copied by the rest of the world as a standard for basic mail sent through their respective national postal services. **In the year 2000. it was therefore not surprising that Royal Mail celebrated this international landmark in their history, by making an accurate facsimile / reproduction of the Penny Black Postage stamp for the 160th anniversary of the first issue in 1840, and sold it in a presentation pack which also contained valuable information about the history and production of this, the first officially recognized adhesive Postage Stamp in the world. Its successor, the Penny Red, followed, and reproduction was issued within a similar folder in 2011. The details about how Royal Mail went about making these stamps originally , and their true replicas in the early 2000s, is the main content of this article.** Many interesting fact about challenges faced when these 2 types of penny stamps were introduced , details about which are found in these 2

presentation packs ,are discussed in this article, along with relevant Philatelic material from my collection..



SIR ROWLAND HILL AND THE BASIC 1 PENNY DESIGN

The person who envisaged this plan, and made several petitions the Government of England of that time ,which finally succeeded in this uniform postage system being introduced , was Sir Rowland Hill(1795-1874), for whose bicentenary of birth , this stamp set was issued in 1995 by Royal Mail. The 19 p stamp in this set shows a young Rowland Hill with a copy of one of his Petitions in the background, whereas the the 29 p Stamp shows an older Rowland Hill with a copy of the Penny Black in the background. Full credit should be given to him for selecting a design so non-controversial (as it featured the profile portrait of the reigning Monarch, Queen Victoria), and so perfect, that it remained unchanged for 40 years , through various transitions like change of colour to Red in 1841, adopting perforations for stamps in 1848 and using check letters on all 4 corners (instead of 2 corners only , which was introduced to check forgery, by enabling the stamps position on each Printing Plate to be identified) in 1858. The basic design was changed only from 1881 onwards, when both Postage and Revenue were combined on a single stamp design ,to produce the 1 penny "Penny Lilac "(also called the poor mans Penny Red, as it was issued in such large quantities) which substituted the Penny Reds as the basic definitive stamp.

A 2 penny Blue stamp had also been introduced in 1840 , along side the Penny Black , and later more values were added in stages as postage stamps were used to pay for posting of printed matter and newspapers, heavier letters, or even to reach a growing number of foreign destinations.

Sir Rowland Hill, had trained as a school teacher, but had also involved himself in social and other improvement projects and causes , before he turned his attention to introducing the Penny Postage idea. His long and persistent fight to introduce an universal , standard

postage became a reality when on 22nd August 1839, The British Treasury was authorized to implement a plan for an affordable Postal Service

PRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL PENNY BLACK



The Penny Black and the Two pence Blue production was a team effort - conceived by Sir Rowland Hill; the design was drawn by Henry Corbould from the effigy which had been drawn and sculpted by William Wyon for the Guildhall Medal showing a young Queen Victoria; it was engraved by the father and son duo of M/s. Charles and Fredrick Heath and finally recess printed by Perkins, Bacon & Petch of London. The rose engine used to print the background was patented by an US engineer, Jacob Perkins, who had perfected a method of engraving steel plates to print bank notes to prevent forgery. The printing process used is also called intaglio or line-engraving process. Each finished plate used for the printing of each sheet of Penny Blacks had 240 impressions, with a different set of letters on each of the 2 bottom corners of each stamp.

Therefore the Penny Black stamp was printed in 4 stages, as shown here:

The second die made, which was finally used for printing of this stamp was the first stage for the printing process, as it provided for the security pattern seen in the background of each Penny Black. The second stage was the printing of the engraved head of Queen Victoria. The third stage was adding the lettering with the word "postage", and the value of the stamp. Lastly, the Maltese cross designs on the top 2 blank corners were added, while the corner letters were added in the bottom 2 squares, to indicate the position of the stamp on the Printing Plate, as a preventive counter to forgery. The original printing presses used are shown on the British M.S. issued for the 175th Anniversary of the introduction of the Penny Black. The British M.S. and the 5p stamp issues shared here above, show two Penny Blacks and a 2 Pence Blue stamp complete in all aspects. The Penny Blacks on the MS are from the position S & O on the printing plate used, and the one on the lone stamp is from sheet position P&L, where as the 2 p stamp is from sheet position Q&B, from among the 240 stamps on each sheet.. The plate numbers were not available on these stamps at this stage, and of course each sheet had 240 stamps, the position of which were indicated by these alphabets, with the stamp on the top left having the alphabet combination of A & A. All stamps were printed on crown watermark paper.

THE PENNY BLACK REPRODUCTIONS.



Here above are shown the reproduction of the original Penny Black as a Block of 4 facsimile, and part of the Presentation Pack folder, within which is housed these sharply detailed reprints in a protective, transparent cover. Information about this stamp is also shared in the Presentation Pack folder.

The reproduction shared here is printed using a modern plate created from the original metal die. This plate, just like the original consists of 240 impressions, but without the corner letters punched in. Hence it can be seen that the upper 2 corners have the Maltese Cross design punched in,

but the bottom 2 corner spaces are blank, unlike the original Penny Black stamps, which were discussed earlier. The printing of these reproductions also followed the original Victorian method which in this case is on high quality and hand made paper, with printing carried out using a specialist printing company. The difference are that apart from the missing corner alphabets, the paper used is not water marked, and a text pattern on the reverse, (shown here), states this is a Penny Black Reproduction. Information in the folder in which the reproduction is housed , states that they are hand printed at "Studio prints " using the original intaglio process, on English hand- made pure cotton paper.(120 gsm, acid free, with no water mark). Like the originals , these stamps don't have perforations, and therefore had to be cut with scissors to separate them.

This special Penny Black Presentation Pack was issued for The Stamp Show 2000, London, an International Stamp Exhibition. These blocks of 4 in a special Presentation Packs were sold there for 5 British Pounds each . An original Perkins - Beacon machine was placed as part of the exhibition so visitors could view the printing of these sheets as they were originally produced. As per the newspaper report in The Independent Newspaper, England, date 24th April 2000, which was a few days before the event started, it was reported that the reproduction process on the original machine was to be demonstrated at this Stamp Show, and that it will be a very slow process , as this original machine had historically , and therefore even now, will continue to print only 10 sheets per day, and therefore they has stated that a a maximum of 70 sheets was expected to be produced during this event.

- (To continued)

Author :



A full time devoted philatelist after retiring in 2011 from private companies including Bharat Petroleum. He is an accomplished and well known philatelic writer with depth and research on the topics of his choice. His participation in SIPA whatsapp group is quite informative and admirable with the 'variety' of his illustrations which shows the formidability of his collection of around six decades.

* * * * *

ISREAL - 1967 **'Here Comes the "Meshuggener!"**

Mercy A. Goldwasser

It has been my fortune to live in Israel in momentous times. During the 'Six Day War', my family and I lived in Beersheva, in those days just a large town, not a city as it is today. A few months after the war ended, **Israel issued a set of three stamps commemorating the event.** In September and Ocotober 1967, two small news items appeared in the local press noting that Poland, being particularly anti-Israel at that time, would not accept mail with these stamps on it. Interested in seeing what would happen, I bought several sets at the post office and decided to use them on some covers to Poland.

As I wanted to send one cover registered, I took it to the post office and gave it to the woman clerk at the Registry Section. The conversation went something like this: "I'd like to send this **letter to Poland**, registered, please." After glancing at it she said, "**I'm sorry, you can't sent it.**" I: "I know the problem. It's O.K." I: "I know it. Please send it." She: "No, no-you don't understand. If I send it, Poland will not deliver it and it will be returned to you." I: "I know that. If you send it, Poland will not deliver it and it'll be returned to me. Please send it."

With a very puzzled look and a shrug of her shoulders, she dutifully filled out the registration form, post marked the envelope, and gave me the postmared receipt. When I walked again the registry clerk called out to the others, "**Here comes the meshuggener (crazy one)!**" She undoubtedly had discussed my odd behavior with the rest of the department. I said nothing and as usual send off some more covers.

Imagine my delight when a few days later I received in the mail my **first returned cover** from Poland bearing the rubber stamp, "RETOUR/Non admis-(art. 281d) / de la Convention UPU / glorification de l' agression / millitaire sur timbre-poste." I didn't realize at the time **what a prize this was**, as not only was mail to Poland from the larger cities in Israel intercepted by the Israel Post Office and returned before leaving Israel, but the handstamp contains of the soon corrected "millitaire."

For the next several days, the postman kept returning the undelivered registered mail, sadly remarking to my wife, "It's too bad so much of your husband's mail has to be returned. Poor fellow." After a week of this, I took some of the covers with me to the post office and asked the clerks to gather around. They came out from behind their counters and I reminded them of my mysterious behavior and showed 2them my returned covers. Understanding gradually dawned, and with "ooh's" and "ah's" they smiled their approval and studied the covers. Thus they were enlightened as to what **philatelic possibilities exist in everyday life.**

* * * * *

NEWTON'S PRINCIPIA

Edited by
Rolands Nelson

GB has commemorated the 300th anniversary of Newton's great work *Philosophiae Naturalis Italies Principia Mathematica* which was published in Latin in 1687. *Principia* was the work of genius. It explained the universal laws of science, and is probably the greatest contribution to science ever made by a single man.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the Church was being assailed by new ideas that questioned her centuries of religious teachings. Enquiring minds sought for reason in the universe. They rejected irrational and superstitious doctrines, and divulged theories on what their eyes could see. Copernicus (1473/1543) reintroduced the heretical thought that the Earth was not the centre of the solar system, but revolves with the planets round the sun (France 1973 SG2058). His works were banned until 1822.



Copernicus

Girodano Bruno was burnt at the stake for expressing views that an outer sphere of stars encircled our universe, shouldering out and displacing "Heaven". Galileo, whose best known invention was the telescope (Italy 1983 SG1800), and who died the year Newton was born, shared Copernicus's beliefs but was forced by the Inquisition to recant. Whichever way the Church sought to suppress them, thoughts and ideas escaped to fuel the thirst for knowledge, each building on another's foundation. Thus, Newton allowed with uncharacteristic humility, "If I have seen further than other men, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants. Issac Newton (1642/1727) was born on Christmas Day, a sickly premature babe, tiny enough to "fit into a quart pot." His father, a small landowner, had died two months previously, but Newton's birthplace, Woolsthorpe manor house still stand eight miles south of Grantham, Lincolnshire. When he was merely three his mother packed him off to his grand mother in order to marry the wealthy rector from North Witham. He loathed his stepfather, and much has been made of the effect that jealousy and dislike had on his complex character, together with an unhappy motherless childhood. He developed a sound constitution, but at various times throughout his life seemed on the point of emotional collapse. A solitary man who hated controversy, he sometimes erupted in scathing, vindictive onslaughts on friend and foe alike.



Galileo

Newton's career at Grantham Grammar School showed no sign of his later genius. When his stepfather died in 1653, his mother returned to Woolsthorpe. She took

him away from school when he was 14 to help on the farm. But his disinterest in farming was total, and his fascination with mechanical devices and working models of sun-dials and water clocks, made a thoughtful uncle send him back to school to prepare for Cambridge. William Ayscough, rector of Burton Coggles, Lincs. was himself a Trinity man, and it is to him that the boy owed his education.

Few details of Newton's life as an under graduate have survived. He found the university rigidly classical, but plunged into his own personal study of Rene Descartes *Discours* (France 1937 SG574), and other scientific works by contemporary writers. He came to comprehend various mathematics far in advance of the teachings of Euclid, in which, according to his tutor, he lacked understanding. He took his degree in 1665, and returned to Woolsthorpe when the University closed because of the plague that was ravaging the land.

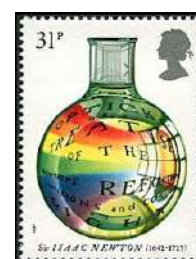


His mental activity at this period was extraordinary, and he said himself, "in the plague years of 1665/6 I was in my prime of age for invention, and minded mathematics and philosophy more than at any time since." The foundations of his theories and general principles were laid then, although in many cases they did not come to fruition until many years later. He **developed calculus, a new branch of advanced mathematics** that he called "fluxions" and used this later to calculate his gravitational theories. Unfortunately, he did not publish his calculus which led to bitter controversy with the German mathematician G W Leibniz (W Germany 1966 SG1423) who published his findings some 20 years later. They are now regarded as co-discoverers, as both developed calculus independently.



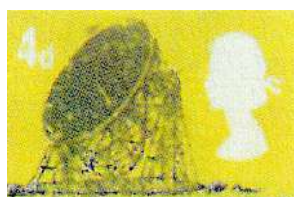
Scientists then believed that gravity was a force in the air, but according to Perberton, Newton "fell into a speculation on the power of gravity" which stayed constant whatever the distance from the centre of the Earth. **It was at Woolsthorpe that Newton watched the famous apple fall.** Was this the mysterious force he had been searching for that kept the moon tied to its orbit round the Earth, and the planets tethered the Sun? By the age of 23 he had calculated most of his law of gravitation.

Woolsthorpe was also the scene of his pioneering experiments on the composition of light and color. He bought a six penny triangular prism at Stourbridge fair, and demonstrated that a beam of visible white light shining through the prism split into the colours of the spectrum. And if these were directed through a second prism the colours reverted to white. By



this experiment he proved that the separate colours of light are the basic elements, and that white light was a combination of colours. This is illustrated by Sarah Godwin's 31p "Opticks" stamp with its flask of water and light refracted, and original and beautiful method of visually presenting a scientific concept.

Newton returned to Cambridge, and at the of 26 succeeded Isaac Barrow as Lucasian professor of Mathematics. He sorted out his earlier studies in optics. Following Galileo's invention of the telescope, **in 1668 Newton perfected the first practical reflecting telescope** using a parabolic mirror to reflect and magnify the subject observed. It was six inches long with an aperture of one inch and with it he saw Jupiter's moons (GB 1985 SG1283). It was the foundation from which our modern gigantic models evolved (GB 1966 SG701). Several territories illustrated Newton's invention as part of their tribute to Halley.



Soon after he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1672 he presented his paper on the nature of light and colour. This started an acrimonious feud with Robert Hooke which lasted until the latter's death. Hooke had in 1664 published an identical experiment with a prism, but had not carried his own observations through to a logical conclusion. He refused to accept Newton's deductions, and accused him unfairly of plagiarism. Newton's abhorrence of controversy and sensitivity to criticism established a pattern. After the initial argument he habitually withdrew into himself, and wrote, "I see a man must either resolve to put out nothing new or become a slave to defend it." The bitter disputes with Hooke caused him to delay publication of Opticks until after his rival's death in 1704.

The mental distress of the arguments caused Newton to fall into a fit of deep melancholia. After his mother died he cut his human contacts. He buried himself in work, devoting himself to alchemical research and studies in science and theology, trying to unite scientific knowledge with scriptural teachings. Letters from Hooke in 1679 asking questions on planetary motion directed his mind to the hidden forces of nature, and he worked out correctly the principles of the movement of heavenly bodies, based on Kepler's Laws (W Germany 1971 SG1594).



Hooke, Edmond Halley, and Christopher Wren, the astronomer better known as an architect, wrestled in London with the problem of planetary motion, Halley in



particular being immersed in the behaviour of comets. Eventually, Halley offered to visit Newton in Cambridge in August 1684 in the hope of discovering what sort of curve a planet describes in its orbit round the Sun. Their mathematics were not equal to the task, and they had heard rumours of Newton's "fluxions".

The master immediately answered "An ellipse", and explained he had already worked it out. This is illustrated (22p) by a mathematical design showing the elliptical movement of planets of the solar system. Thus, Newton supplied mathematical proof of Kepler's theory first advanced in 1609. Newton's answer enabled Halley to predict the future movements of the great comet the now bears his name (GB 1986 SG1315).

Halley was an endearing man, much liked for his qualities and sunny disposition, who managed to remain untouched by all the scientific bickering of his contemporaries. He was so impressed by Newton's genius, that he shelved his own work to persuade the great man to finish his *Principia*, which demonstrated the universal laws. He supported Newton through his intense labours, and with great personal generosity edited the *Principia*. Although rather a poor man he believed in its importance to passionately that he paid for its publication in 1687.



The masterpiece was well received except by Hooke who claimed it was based on his letters of 1679/80. Furiously, Newton threatened he would not publish his *Principia* Book 3, but was persuaded eventually to do so after he had deleted every possible reference to Hooke. J L Lagrange (France 1958 SG1371) one of the leading 18th century mathematicians, referred to *Principia* as man's greatest work, remarking, wistfully that Newton was the most fortunate genius "for there is but one universe, and it can happen to but one man in the world's history to be the interpreter of its laws". Hungary marked the 250th anniversary of Newton's death (1977 SG3111) with his sketched portrait and an optical diagram, together with a se-tenant label illustrating mechanics from *Principia*.



Outside events also had an effect. Newton took a leading part in defending Cambridge University when James II started to interfere illegally with its internal affairs. He was elected Member of Parliament for Cambridge to the Convention Parliament that placed William and Mary on the throne after the deposition of



James II. Stress engendered by this, the rancorous exchanges with Hooke and Leibniz, together with overwork on his book, caused a mental breakdown described as "a discomposure in head, or mind, or both". He left Cambridge in 1696 to become Warden and then Master of the Royal Mint, an appointment of importance that he retained until he died. He was an able and efficient administrator, pursuing forgers with resolution. Although the Post Office ignored his death anniversary in 1977, the Royal Mint reproduced Newton's portrait on the £1 note from the painting by Kneller. That same portrait has been the basis for several stamps. Ascension 1971 definitive SG139 depicts this portrait, his telescope and the famous apple.

Newton became President of the Royal Society when his enemy Hooke died, and remained so until his death. Queen Anne knighted him in 1705, the first scientist so honoured, and when he died in 1727 he was buried in Westminster Abbey. Newton might be one of the World's greatest men, but he was not a very likeable character. Solitary and aloof, totally obsessed by work, he only left his chambers when forced to do so, his secretary remarking, "if he had not been minded, would to very carelessly, with shoes down at heel, stockings untied, and his head scarcely combed." Intensely sensitive to criticism himself, as an autocratic President of the Royal Society he insisted on supervising and controlling the careers of his young associates whose works he ridiculed, and the Royal Society became hardly more than an expansion of his will. The Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed, supplied the lunar observations needed by Newton, who then published Flamsteed's life work without permission.



Newton's principia combined the contributions of many famous predecessors, and became the cornerstone of the scientific revolution on which our modern space achievements are based. His System explained how any projectile is subject to gravity, but if launched at sufficient speed will orbit the planet (34p), a law used again and again at every launch of a communication satellite or spy-in-the-sky. Sir Frank Whittle's pioneer jet demonstrates Newton's third law of motion - action and reaction.



There were several interesting first day hand stamps to herald the new issue. The unit of force is known as the newton, and is roughly equivalent to the weight of the apple depicted dropping in free-fall at Woolsthorpe as a symbol of gravity. The Royal Society sponsored a handstamp as President 1703/27 at Crane Court EC4 which was the home of the Society at that time.

His original reflecting telescope was shown at Greenwich Old Observatory, and Trinity College comes from Cambridge.

Newton deduced that the rotation of the Earth would cause centrifugal force to be greater the nearer to the axis of rotation, and therefore the Earth would be flattened or elliptical at the poles in the Arctic in Lapland, and at the Equator in South America. This theory had been advanced by the Dane Tycho Brahe (1546/1601) in the face of the belief that the world was round. In 1736/7, Some 10 years after Newton's death, two French expeditions left to measure the Arcs of Meridian, the first to Lapland led by de Maupertius, and the other led by La Condamine to South America. Both expeditions vindicated the theory. Finland and France produced joint issues in 1986 but the French stamp shows both leaders.

Alexander Pope's couplet appeals to me, but perhaps not to that enigma Newton:

"Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night;
God said, 'Let Newton be!' and all was light".

Reference :
Barbara Last
British Philatelic Bulletin July 1987.

* * * * *

INFO - BITS No.5

WHAT IS A STAMP?

Many years before Cromwell's Post Office Act of 1657 created a centralized postal service for England, the term "Stamp" as employed officially had come to mean an embossed or impressed mark placed on a document by a government office to certify that the tax chargeable for what was written or printed in that document had been paid. However, as trade - inland, imperial, and foreign - increased and the general level of literacy continued slowly to rise at home and throughout the empire, embossing and in the government by the relative ease with which such handstamping expedited the processing of increased quantities of taxable paper. And so the term "Stamp" as officially employed was expanded in coverage and what may be regarded as a second generation meaning came into being. Accordingly, when William Dockwra established a Penny Post for London in 1680, inked handstamps, some of which are illustrated here, were adopted for his system's use.



(Courtesy. American Philatelist, 1978.)

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OBITUARY :

Shri R.SOUNDARARAJAN

Shri R.Soundararajan was born in Thevur of Nagapattinam District, Tamilnadu on 25.12.1937. After serving in the Department of Posts for four decades, he retired as Instructor at the Postal Training Centre, Mysore in 1995. With his extensive knowledge on mail operations and communication skills, he trained lakhs of postal officials of various circles as well as those from UPU and SAARC countries. He holds a Master's degree in English Literature and has edited two significant books, "The Postal History" and "The Postal Geography," both published by PTC Mysore.



After retirement, he settled in Nagapattinam, For some years The 'Hindu' reserved a column titled "Know Your Stamp" for him in its 'Young World' Section. He was fluent in Tamil, English, French, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam.

In 2023, he won First Place in the Dhai Akhar All India Letter Writing Competition and donated the entire prize money to the upliftment of differently-abled children. His humanitarian and philanthropic activities are evident from his joining hands with the then Collector of Nagapattinam Mr. J.Radhakrishnan in rescuing hundreds of fisherfolk from distress during the Tsunami 2004. Till his last breath on 20th Jan 25, he apportioned a part of his pension for helping the needy.

As an avid philatelist, he was a life member of SIPA and the Philatelic Congress of India and participated in many philatelic exhibitions and won several awards in district, state, and national exhibitions. He won Vermeil

Medal in the Kalanchiaym stamp exhibition at Thanjavur in Oct 20, 2024. He immensely contributed to editing the Philatelic souvenirs brought out by the Department of Posts in various exhibitions. Soundarajan maintained cordial relations with many Chief PMGs, and assisted them in conducting philatelic exhibitions, particularly, Inpex 2008, and Mahafilmpex 2008.

The Members of the SIPA place on record their heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Shri R.Soundarajan a multi-faceted personality. May the departed soul RIP.

* * * * *

BOOK INFORMATION :

Title	'Tiny Treasures' The Science and History behind the World of stamps.
Author	Dr.M.R.Ramesh Kumar Chief Scientist (Retd) National Institute of Oceanography
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SIPA and TANAPEX 2025

At the 'Ground breaking ceremony' done on 5th Nov, 2024 for TANAPEX 2025, the Chief Post Master General, introduced the LOGO and MASCOT MUTHU and mentioned that with South India Philatelists Association's support, Chennai circle is venturing into this extravaganza during the last week of Jan.2025. In lighting the Kuthuvilakku also SIPA was given the privilege of lighting one of the five fingers of the lamp.

However, for the first time in TANAPEX's and SIPA's history, the stall for SIPA was allotted on payment of Rs.10,000/- like other commercial stamp dealers. A certificate was given. SIPA is thankful for this unexpected gesture.

The SIPA Stall was the centre of attraction for everyone who visited the exhibition - members, philatelists, students, youngsters, general public and the postal officials. It was a beehive of philatelic activities.

SIPA's Primer on "Stamp Collecting for Beginners" "Princely States of India" and other Books on Philately were displayed at the stall. A heartening service at the stall was the free distribution of postage stamps to school children. As many as 24000 plus stamps were given as gift to the enthusiastic school children - about 90% of these were sponsored by our past President Mr G. Amarchand and the balance stamps were provided by M/s. Dilip Saboo, KS Palani, Mahesh Parekh, P.S Seshadri and CG Bhaskar.

The stall was efficiently managed by SIPA members M/s. Mahesh Parekh, Naresh Kanted, KS Palani, J Rolands Nelson, G. Amarchand, T. Murugavel, SK Lakshmanan, C. Senthil Kumar, SV Ramakrishnan, Dilip Saboo, Anil Reddy, R. Seetharaman, Sreedaran, Ravi Kumar etc.

SIPA's special thanks are to Mr. N. Vignesh for organising quality and tasty vegetarian lunch from the second day onwards for the dealers and SIPA members at the venue. It was real commotion on the first day with some getting something and some getting nothing even after paying Rs. 150/- for Lunch. His thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. "சோறு முக்கியம் பாஸ்"



'Mr. Shanmugam for 'Medical Discoveries'



Mr. Senthilkumar for 'Olympics'



Debut Medal for Mr. KS. Palani



SIPA President Mr. Rolands Nelson for Literature (Book)



Col. Sundaram Army



Kasinath - 'Literature'



Mr. S.K. Lakshmanan receiving 'Gold' for 'Machins'



Madhavan - Bar Code Labels



S. Anbu Chidambaram - Temples of Tamilnadu.



Quiz Master Mr.Seshadri Interacting with students



Stalwarts of SIPA



SIPA Members from Bangalore, Madurai, Trichy, Kerala etc.

It was a four day philatelic fun and enjoyment for all the members of SIPA who visited the exhibition. For some older members like SIPA bulletin founder editor Mr. Karunakaran, stamp designer and artist Mr. Chandrashekharan, it was sheer 'nostalgia'.

Detailed list of award winners among members of SIPA will be published in the next bulletin issue April to July 2025.

P.S. Due to want of pictures and others' images were not shown in this issue. Kindly apologise. Anybody having photos of themselves, their friends and colleagues during TANAPEX 2025, please send them to the editor for responsive action.



Five commemorative covers have been designed with concept developed by SIPA in memory of TANAPEX 2025. This may fill the void created by the inadequate supply of official special covers issued by India-Post.

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