

# Silver Jubilee

**SOUVENIR**

1981



**SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION**

**MADRAS**

**600 001**



*Press Secretary to the President*

*President's Secretariat*

*Rashtrapati Bhavan*

*New Delhi-110 004*

*June 16, 1981*



*The President of India desires me to convey his best wishes on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the South India Philatelists' Association.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*H. Suryanarayana*



VICE-PRESIDENT  
INDIA  
NEW DELHI

June 25, 1981

I send my best wishes for the success of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the South India Philatelists' Association, Madras to be held during the third week of July, 1981 at Madras.

**M. Hidayatullah**

**RAJ BHAVAN  
MADRAS-600 022**

19th June 1981

### **MESSAGE**

I am glad to know that the South India Philatelists' Association proposes to celebrate its Silver Jubilee in July this year.

Philately is a popular hobby. In our country it has become a means of educating on People in the history and culture of India. It should not be difficult for philatelists to utilise this hobby as an instrument for promoting international understanding and brotherhood.

My best wishes for the success of the Celebration.

**SADIQ ALI**

**M. L. GAIND**

Member (Postal Operations)  
& Ex Officio Additional Secretary  
To the Government of India



**POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS BOARD**  
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi-110001

July 23, 1981

I am very happy to know that the South India Philatelists' Association will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee shortly. Philately as an interesting and educative hobby has come to be accepted by all. The philatelic associations have a key role to play in promoting philately, particularly among the school and college going students, and making it a mass movement among the educated. I hope the South India Philatelists' Association, in its future activities, will pay more attention to young philatelists and encourage the youth to take to this fascinating and educative pastime.

I convey my felicitations to the members on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of SIPA and wish them all success in their future endeavours.

**M. L. Gaiind**  
Member (Postal Operations)

**P. S. RAGAVACHARI**  
Postmaster-General  
Tamilnadu Circle Madras-600 002  
Phone : 845824

20th June, 1981

## Message

I am happy to know that the South India Philatelists' Association, Madras is celebrating its SILVER JUBILEE in the third week of July 1981 and that the Association will be holding a Philatelic Exhibition 'SIPEX '81' to coincide with the same.

Philately is an exciting and interesting pastime and the role of Philatelic Exhibitions in promoting this fascinating hobby needs no emphasis. It is in the fitness of things that a pioneer society like the South India Philatelists' Association, which includes amongst its members many eminent philatelists, should think of organising a stamp exhibition, to mark the completion of 25 years of its useful existence.

I take this opportunity not only to congratulate the members of the Association on their past and present achievements but also wish SIPEX—81 a grand success.

**P. S. RAGAVACHARI**

# THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA

BOMBAY 23, June, 1981

*I send my greetings and best wishes to SIPA on her reaching the Silver Jubilee mark may it grow in Philatelic strength and serve the people in the right direction. May you reach a centenary full of glorious progress.*

**Arvind M. Pakvasa**

*President*

The Philatelic Society of India

# India's Stamp Journal

P. M. MEDHORA

*Editor*

Tel : 393103

G-10, Dalal Estate,

Lamington Road,

BOMBAY 400 008

Bombay, 25th June 1981

I am extremely happy to note that the South India Philatelists' Association has completed twentyfive years of its eventful career. The Society has done very useful work in the South in spreading the gospel of philately and the organisers of this leading philatelic society in the South has proved beyond doubts that stamp collecting is not a mere hobby but it is extremely useful to the students fraternity as the hobby is educative, informative and a pleasant pastime.

Your decision of holding a stamp exhibition SIPEX-81, will I am sure be appreciated by one and all. It will be an eye-opener to a layman who will not only learn a lot but also it is likely that he will turn out to be a philatelist very soon.

To SIPEX-81 and to your organisation, I wish a grand success and all the best for years to come.

P. M. MEDHORA

*President*

Empire of India Philatelic Society



**PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA**  
(Registered under the Societies Registration  
Act of 1960)

**DOLPHINS**  
S-484 Greater Kailash II  
New Delhi-110048  
Telephone : 667091

18th June 1981

### *MESSAGE*

The South India Philatelists' Association will be celebrating 25 years of its distinguished and valuable existence in December this year, which will be a milestone in the history of the Association and indeed the history of Indian philately. The Association has served philately in India and particularly in South India and has made distinct contributions to the progress of this branch of knowledge. It had always on its rolls the most eminent philatelists from all over the country who have contributed in no small measure to this great hobby. I always recollect the very pleasant association I have had with Mr. V. N. S. Rao, President of the Association, and a doyen of Indian philately who has always been an inspiration to other members of the fraternity.

On behalf of the Philatelic Congress of India and on my own behalf, I wish the function all success and further progress to the Association in the service of philately

**G. B. PAI**  
*President*

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# PREFACE

We will be reaching important milestone in our steady progress, this December, when we will be twenty-five. As part of the celebrations to mark our Silver Jubilee, we have arranged a stamp exhibition—the sixth in our series. This time the exhibition is confined to pages from the collections formed by our members only, so that they may get a move on and gain confidence from this experience to participate in future bigger exhibitions on the National and higher levels.

We have also brought out this souvenir - the fourth one to be published by us so far—to coincide with the holding of the stamp exhibition and to serve as a happy remembrancer. We have tried our best to make the souvenir attractive with a good get-up, interesting articles and illustrations.

We have received messages of goodwill from the President of India, the Vice President of India, Governor of Tamil Nadu and other leading personalities, which have been included in the following pages. We are deeply indebted to them for their kind good wishes.

We are, indeed, grateful to the philatelists several of them being persons well known in International philatelic circles, for their interesting and instructive articles, covering various aspects of philately, written specially for this souvenir.

But for the support of the many well-wishers whose advertisements adorn the pages of this souvenir, we would not have been able to bring out this publication. We are immensely thankful to them for their valued help.

Our sincere thanks are due to the artists, the block makers, and the printers for the excellent job they have done in making this souvenir attractive.

We are also thankful to the Postmaster-General, Madras, and the members of the Postal Dept. for providing special cachet cancellations on all the four days of the exhibition at the hall, and helping us with the much needed publicity for the exhibition, and helping us with the frames to hold the exhibits.

It goes without saying that the big task of holding an exhibition in a city like Madras, and publishing a souvenir, would have been impossible, but for the co-operation and hard work of the band of selfless and willing workers, drawn from the members of our Association, who have attended to all the necessary arrangements, canvassed advertisements and looked into the hundreds of details incidental thereto, spending much of their precious time and energy. We express our sincere and heart-felt thanks to each one of them.

Before concluding, we wish to record our sincere homage to those members who have departed from our midst, since our previous stamp exhibition 1972. Notable among them were Saivashri R. F. Shroff, Dr. P. St. C. Mitchell, Major V S. Rajagopalan, V. N. Krishna Rau, N. Ramakrishna Chetty and T. R. Ananthan.



Venue of the Exhibition SIPEX '81  
(Hamid Building, Anna Salai, Madras)

# South India Philatelists' Association

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

## OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1980-81

<i>President</i>	:	Shri V. N. S. Rau
<i>Vice-President</i>	:	„ G. Madhan Mohan Das
<i>Treasurer</i>	:	„ S. Mahalingam
<i>Secretaries</i>	1	„ G. Balakrishna Das
		„ K. Prasad

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Shri S. Ramaswamy  
„ M. T. Karunakaran  
„ N. Sankar Row  
„ A. C. Thiriloknath  
„ G. Amarchand  
„ A. Thiruvangada Gupta

Hon. Editor, SIPA Bulletin : Shri. M. T. Karunakaran

Hon. Librarian : „ K. Prasad



V. N. S. Rao



G. Madan Mohan Das



S. Mahalingam



G. Balakrishna Das



K. Prasad



S. Ramaswamy



M. T. Karunakaran



M. Shankar Row



G. Amarchand



A. C. Thriloknath



A. Thiruvengadam

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(Chairman)

## MEMBERS

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„	S. Mahalingam	„	M. T. Karunakaran	„	L. K. Surana
„	A. C. Thriloknath	„	J. D. Pannalal	„	R. P. Bimani
„	Prakash Galada	„	Ajit K. Palucha	„	K. Thiruvengadam



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Shri Madan Mohan Das

„ D. H. Rao

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„ T. S. Sundaram

Shri K. Prasad

„ M. T. Karunakaran

## Auction Committee

Shri G. Amarchand

„ K. Prasad

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras—1961



Mr. V. N. B. Rao introducing Mr. Renzo Pagin to the late Dr. P. Subbarayan then Communication Minister

Mr. Ellsworth Bunker with Dr. Thomas W. Simons, Mr. V. N. S. Rao and others



Dr. P. ST. C. Mitchell,  
Mr. L. K. Narayanaswamy,  
Miss Cecilia Johnson  
and Mr. V. N. S. Rau

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras 1961



Mr. L. K. Narayanaswamy, P. M. G.  
addressing

Miss Cecilia Johnson presenting award to  
Mr. T. A. Natarajan



Dr. P. ST. C. Mitchell, President of SIPA  
addressing

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras—1961



Mr. M. A. Namazic viewing the Exhibits

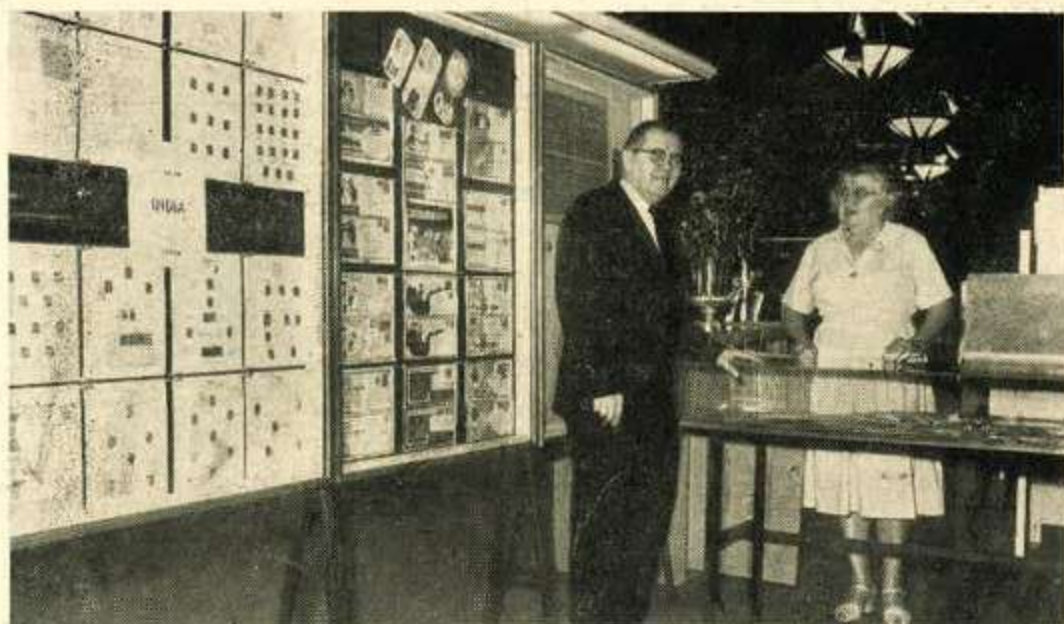


Mr. M. M. Namazie receiving award from Miss Cecilia Johnson

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras 1962



**Mr. Renzo Pagan of the U.S.I.S. Presenting to Mr. S. Ramaswamy  
President of S.I.P.A. Scotts Catalogues**



**Mr. Frederic Unlig in front of the exhibition put up by Mr. V. N. S. Rau and  
Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das at SIPEX at Sherton Hotel, Washington D.C., U. S. A.**

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras 1964



Mrs. Sirkin presenting award to Mr. G. Balakrishna Das



Dr. Albert B. Franklin, American Consul-General for South India,

presenting a First Day Cover to the Mayor of Madras Mr. S. Krishnamurthi

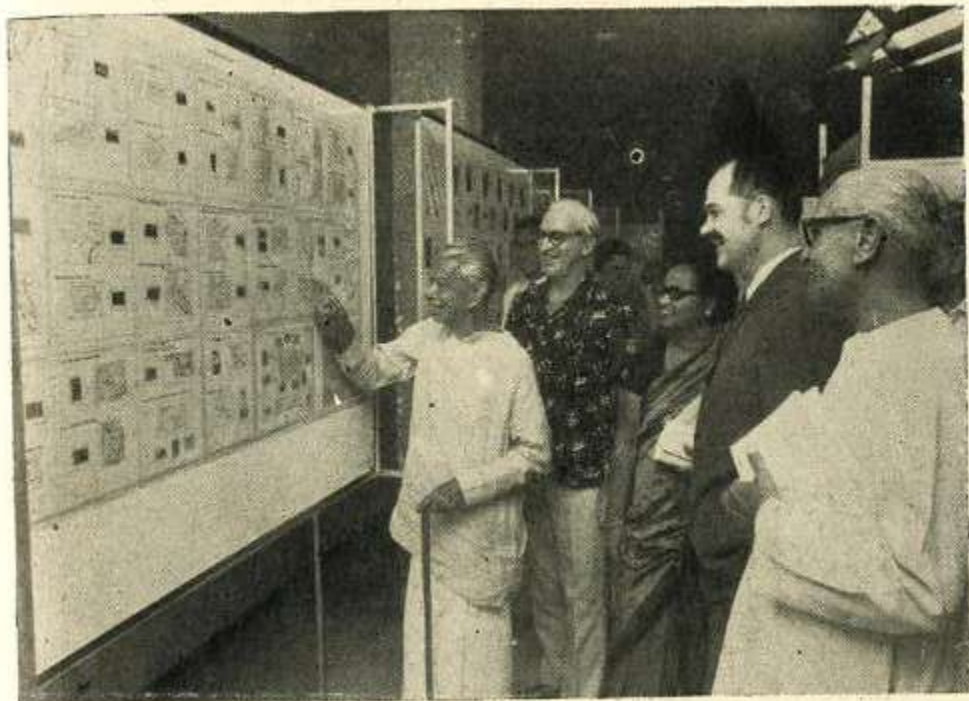
Others: Mr. S. R. Bashyam, P. M. G. Madras and Dr. P. St. C. Mitchell, President S.I.P.A.

## Indo-American Stamp Exhibition 1969



Mr. V. N. S. Rau introducing Mr. V. S. Rajagopalan to Mr. Thomas Rocknagal,  
Mr H. K. Rao P.M.G. Looks on

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition 1972



The late Major V. S. Rajagopalan explaining an exhibit to Mr. Stephen E. Palmer U. S. Consul General, Mr. L. R. Sauble, Mrs. May George, Mr. V. N. S. Rau and others.

Visitors viewing the exhibits





# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition 1972



Dr. C. A. Rajagopalachari receiving award from Mrs. Jothi Venkatachalam



Mr. Madan Mohan Das Speaking at the Prize distribution function.  
Mr. S. Ramaswamy and Mrs. Jothi Venkatachalam are seated.

# Indo-American Stamp Exhibition 1972



Mrs. Parsi Amarchand receiving award from Mrs. Jothi Venkatachalam



Cachet cancellation

General Body Meeting of Philatelic Congress of India  
held at Bangalore 1977



L. to R. Col. L. G. Shenoi ; S. P. Chatterjee ; P. M. Medhora ; G. P. Pai ; D. N. Jatia ; V. N. S. Rau ;  
Dhirubai Mehta ; Brig. D. S. Virk.

सिपेक्स 81  
SIPEX 81

विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER  
16-7-1981

25

COMMEMORATING

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
25th ANNIVERSARY

1956

1981

सिपेक्स 81  
SIPEX 81

विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER  
17-7-1981

25

COMMEMORATING

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
25th ANNIVERSARY

1956

1981

सिपेक्स 81  
SIPEX 81

विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER  
18-7-1981



COMMEMORATING

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
25th ANNIVERSARY

1956

1981

सिपेक्स 81  
SIPEX 81

विशेष आवरण  
SPECIAL COVER  
19-7-1981



COMMEMORATING

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
25th ANNIVERSARY

1956

1981

*Special Covers designed and issued by SIPA*

CENTENARY OF THE INDIAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE  
1857 - 1957



SOUTH INDIAN PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION  
14, JONES STREET - MADRAS-1.



*Special Covers issued for the Indo-American  
Stamp Exhibitions at Madras*

*Freedom Fighters*



मम वने सम्मति दे भगवान

**GANDHI**



SOUTH INDIAN PHILATELISTS' ASSN  
SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION-1961  
U.S. LIBRARY, MADRAS-2.

*Special Covers designed and issued by SIPA*

FIRST DAY COVER



INTRODUCTION OF NEW  
DECIMAL COINAGE  
1 BY APRIL 1957

SOUTH INDIAN PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION  
37, BROADWAY, MADRAS-1.



*Special Covers issued for the Indo-American  
Stamp Exhibitions at Madras*



*Special Covers issued for the Indo-American  
Stamp Exhibitions at Madras*

FEB. 12 TO 21, 1964



FOURTH  
INDO-  
AMERICAN  
STAMP  
EXHIBITION  
MADRAS  
1964



SOUTH INDIAN  
PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION  
MADRAS



*Special Covers issued for the Indo-American  
Stamp Exhibitions at Madras*

FEBRUARY 6-12, 1972



भारत-अमरीकी डाक टिकट प्रदर्शनी  
INDO-AMERICAN STAMP EXHIBITION

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION  
MADRAS

## Article Subscribers to the Souvenir



D. N. Jatia



V. N. S. Rau



P. M. Medhora



Brig. D. S. Virk



M. M. Inamdar

## Article Subscribers to the Souvenir



M. T. Karunakaran



G. Madan Mohan Das



D. H. Rao



O. P. Bhatnagar



S. Ramaswamy

On the 30th of December, this year, the South India Philatelists' Association will be completing twenty-five years.

The Association owes its origin to the late Sri S. Varadarajulu Chettiar, of Nellikuppam, an enthusiastic stamp collector who got together a band of Philatelists to form themselves into the South Indian Philatelists' Association, Madras. The beginning was moderate. There were only seven members to start with, but the number grew with the years.

The late Rev. E. S. Christodas of the Danish Mission was the first President. The first Secretary was Mr. Ananda Mohan. Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, who, we are happy to say, has continued to hold the office of Honorary Secretary of the Association, since a long time, except for a short break, was the first Treasurer. Of the original seven, five are still in our midst, which we are pleased to note.

We dropped the letter 'n' from South Indian in our name, in the late sixties, on a suggestion from the Hon. Secretary of the Philatelic Society of India, to avoid any parochial meaning being attached to the word.

Among the varied activities of the Association over the years, we may mention a few.

In 1957, even though the Postal Department, was bringing out official First Day covers for New Issues, we designed and issued covers for

[1] the introduction of the India Map series of Decimal Definitives;

[2] the Indian Mutiny Centenary issue.

A remarkable point, worthy of note, in regard to the Association's cover for the Decimal issue is that Mr. S. M. Doss, one of our members who designed it with a rough outline map of India, had no idea at all that the stamps to be issued would also have the Indian map as its design. The covers are illustrated elsewhere in this souvenir.

Five stamp exhibitions have been conducted by us so far, starting with a modest one in 1959 followed by more ambitious shows in the years 1961, 1962, 1964 and 1972.

We were advised by the late Mr. M. L. Tannan, the eminent Economist and Educationist of Bombay, and a veteran philatelist, who visited us in 1959, to hold a members' stamp show.

And so, the first show got under way at 24, Broadway, Madras, at the premises of Bhupendra Optical Stores, who kindly placed their office premises at our disposal for our monthly meetings. It was opened on 16th December 1959 by the late Mr. S. T. Srinivasagopalachariar, Advocate, and a senior philatelist of Madras, who was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. It received an enthusiastic welcome which spurred us on to plan more ambitious exhibitions.

Our plans were possible of execution thanks largely to the grand support given to us by the United States Information Services, Madras, and their co-operative staff. As a result the four stamp shows held from 1961 to 1972, were each styled "Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras".

The first one was arranged in 1961, on 28th January, two days after the issue of two special stamps honouring Mahatma Gandhi by the U.S.A. The show was held at the library hall of the U.S.I.S., Mount Road, Madras, and

was opened by Mr. Renzo Pagin, Director, U.S.I.S., in the immediate presence of the late Dr. P. Subbaroyan, the then Union Minister for Communications. This show lasted for nearly a month and was visited by Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, who was the U.S. Ambassador to India, along with Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker.

The Second Indo-American Stamp Exhibition was inaugurated on 16th August 1962 by Dr. Thomas W. Simons, U.S. Consul General in Madras, at the U.S.I.S. Library Hall. This show, which was on a grand scale with the participation of the United Nations Postal Administration, the W.H.O., and several philatelists from abroad besides our Indian friends, attracted large crowds. It was open for over a fortnight.

On 13th February 1964, the birth day of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, the then Chief Minister of Madras, opened the Third Indo-American Stamp Exhibition at the same venue as the previous two shows, with Dr. Albert B. Franklin, U.S. Consul General presiding over the function. Notable participants in the exhibition included the U.S. and U.N. Postal administrations and the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, Weston, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

The next exhibition could be held only in 1972 after a lapse of eight years and that was the Fourth Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, the last one to be held with the active support and collaboration of the U.S.I.S. authorities in Madras. This was inaugurated by Mr. Stephen E. Palmer Jr., U.S. Consul General and the exhibition had as its venue the spacious library hall in the U.S.I.S.'s own new premises at the Gemini round-about, on Anna Road, Madras. This exhibition lasted for seven days from the 6th to the 12th of February 1972.

Special covers were brought out by us for each of the above four Indo-American Exhibitions, and the Postal

Dept., kindly provided special cache cancellations at the exhibition venue on all the days. Illustrations of these covers appear elsewhere in this souvenir.

We will be failing in our duty if we omitted to make here a special mention of the very important part played by the late Major V. S. Rajagopalan who always avoided the limelight but worked ceaselessly and whole-heartedly to make each exhibition of the Association a complete success, coaxing and cajoling the U.S.I.S. officials into giving the maximum help by way of space, staff, stationery, etc., to us for conducting the exhibitions. His absence is felt keenly by all of us in this our Silver Jubilee year more than at any other time.

We published special souvenirs in connection with the second, third and fourth Indo-American Stamp Exhibitions, and they were well received.

In 1969, we joined in the All American Stamp Show put up at the American Cultural Center, Madras, by the Indo-American Association, and the American Cultural Center, on the 17th of July, which was visited by a large number of school children.

We are one of the few stamp clubs in India, holding a meeting of our members regularly every month, whether it rained or shined. And this is one single major factor which has helped us to reach this Silver Jubilee year of our existence.

The meetings were originally being held on the last Sunday of the month, at the Danish Mission Hall, Broadway. After the demise of Rev. Christodas, the President, the venue was shifted to the premises of Bhupendra Optical Stores, at 24, Broadway, Madras. From 1961, the meetings began to be held at the Association's registered office at 41, Perumal Mudali Street, Sowcarpet, Madras. In 1972, thanks to Mr. M. Janakiraman, the then Post-Master General, Madras, we were allowed to hold our monthly

meetings at the new premises of the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Madras. This arrangement now continues with the help of the Post-Master General and his staff. We now meet on the second Sunday of the month regularly.

We also conduct a monthly meeting of the Members at 41, Perumal Mudali Street, on the third Sunday of every month to enable them to exchange their surplus stamps, to other members.

Since July 1980, we have started issuing a bi-monthly bulletin on a

modest scale, to satisfy a long-felt need of the members. This has been possible thanks to one of our active members, Mr. M. T. Karunakaran, who came forward to shoulder the editorial responsibility willingly.

Our plans for the future include the building up of a good library, owning of a decent premises, conducting school of philately for the younger stamp collectors and thus spread the wonderful and interesting hobby of Stamp Collecting, while marching ahead to new horizons, with the active support of all Philatelists.



# Indias' 9½ Arches in Two Different Ink

By D. N. Jatia, F.R.P.S.L.

A battle royal between the Court of Directors and the Government of India was raging for a decision on whether the first postage stamps of India should be printed in England or in India for the quick implementation of the report of the Post Office Commission, 1850. The Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, mentioned in his Minutes dated 7th February, 1854, of the failure on the part of Col. Forbes of Calcutta Mint in producing a satisfactory standard for printing Indian Stamps by the required time. The task was thereafter entrusted to Capt. H. L. Thuillier of the Government Lithographic Press, Calcutta, for printing by Lithographic process. Capt. Thuillier submitted four designs of ½ anna, 1 anna, 4 annas and 8 annas stamps on 22nd February 1854 hurriedly drawn on transfer paper along with his comments.

Subsequently, Capt. Thuillier reported on 28th April to the Government of India on the various steps taken by him to achieve the objective. He mentioned of attaining a satisfactory representation of Her Majesty's head drawn on transfer paper with "INDIA" at the top and "HALF ANNA" at the bottom. With this set standard he laid off sufficient transfer upon a stone to form a continuing block of 120 stamps i.e., 12 rows with 10 stamps in each and covering 3 such blocks on to the stone to print on approved paper watermarked with Coat of Arms of the East India Company.

In his report, he further mentioned of having been able to print successfully a few hundred sheets after initial trials with very small quantity of English Vermillion lithographic ink which he happened to have with him. The 300 treble sheets or 900 single sheets so printed were sent to Bombay on 5th April. This was in compliance with

the letter dated 13th March, 1854 from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Director-General of the Post Office of India which also contained instructions to print stamps by lithography.

Fresh supply of ink apparently of similar quality and colour obtained was according to Capt. Thuillier, "found entirely to destroy the impressions on the stone, the proof coming off thick and smeared and losing the uniformity of the likeness, so much so to render the stamps unserviceable. Other attempts were then made to prepare the colour in this office and a series of experiments have been made under my immediate supervision, but from the properties of the mineral substance in the vermilion and from repeated and the most careful trials, it is now evident that it will be impossible at such a season of the year, to produce the half-anna stamps in the quantity required in that colour. Even those printed from the English prepared colour become too indistinct after a few hundred impressions, to permit of the same stone being used longer...."

In this respect the letter of 8th April 1854 from Capt. Thuillier to Supdt. of Stamps (published in PJI 1923) is very pertinent. He states that the vermilion supplied by the Superintendent of Stamps "found to be ill-adapted for lithographic purposes, owing as I suspect to wood oil existing in the varnish with which it has been rubbed up. I have the honour to solicit the favour of your supplying me with a quantity of the vermilion powder to enable me to mix up the colour with some English Lithographic Varnish which I happen to have by me."

He had to clean off all the stones so prepared. In order to secure a good



The unissued half anna vermilion

standard to be primarily relied upon. He got engraving of the design done on a copper plate by an Indian, Muanuruddin and blocks were again formed on the stone by transfer process in 12 rows x 8 (totalling 96 stamps). In the meantime, attempts were being made for preparing transfer material, printing ink and varnish from the purest ingredients obtained from dispensary of the East India Company. Fresh printing trials were made in Thuillier's office with the copper plate transfer in black from printing ink, in blue (from refined indigo) and in cobal blue.

The entire supply of 300 treble sheets sent to Bombay was ordered to be destroyed by telegraphic message of 23rd April sent to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay. In his memorandum of 28th April, Capt. Thuillier stated of having submitted demi-officially samples to the Director General of Post Office and also to the Court of Directors. Among the known examples, the upper half of 60 stamps of Block I was presented to the then Prince of Wales by the India office in London in 1904. The lower-half containing 60 stamps was at one time in the India Government collection in a bad state and the same was reported stolen. Block No. II has been illustrated in Hausburg's book in plate 2 from which the stamps with English Vermilion can be seen.

On 12th July 1949, a mild stir was caused among the Indian Philatelists (reported in ISJ June 1950) when Mr. Hiralal Banker of Saurashtra walked into the office of the late Mr. Jal Cooper with a complete triple sheet of the famous "9½ Arches" essay. Till today this discovery is surrounded with mystery. However, it then passed on to the Mecca of Philately, London through Harmers where it has been broken and being sold currently in singles, pairs and blocks.

Stanley Gibbons have catalogued this "9½ Arches" issue as SG 1, ½a Vermilion. If one examines carefully these stamps, he would find a very glaring difference in the colour as well as in the printing and the wear of the stones. Between the two stamps, one is from the original sheet which was printed earliest from the English Vermilion ink which Capt. Thuillier had with him and the other is from the ink sent by the Supdt. of Stamps from which the Hiralal's triple sheet was printed. English Vermilion print is deep blood red, shining having sharp print, while the other one is dull vermilion worn out in printing. It is evident that the concerned stamps were printed from two totally different supplies of ink and as such need separate cataloguing. The prints of the deep red English Vermilion ink are much rarer and deserve better attention than those of dull vermilion of which a full triple sheet was found.

# Working of Calcutta G. P. O. in 1850-1851

*By P. M. Medhora*

With the increasing political influence and expanding trade, the then British Government took various measures for improving postal system throughout the country. Between 1800 to 1845 a number of measures were taken to suggest remedies, to point out defects and to improve upon them so that the postal routes can be well maintained and the public may get better advantage. The functions, duties and jurisdiction of the Postmasters-General at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were laid down so that the Post Office may not be a target of undue criticism.

Going through various records and particularly reading the graphic account in the book, "Postal History and Practice" by Ive Hamilton, who incidentally served the Indian Postal administration for over thirty long years, one gets a graphic picture as to how tedious and tiresome was the job of the Postmaster-General and the postal staff working at the main General Post Offices. To begin with, it would be interesting to go through the working of Calcutta G.P.O. in the years 1850-1851. The salient features are enumerated in this article for the benefit of the readers—

1. The Postmaster-General, Bengal, played a dual role that of Presidency Postmaster and that of Postmaster-General and his salary was Rs. 2,000 per month.

2. The number of clerks working in the Presidency Post Office was over one hundred and the average salary of each clerk was Rs. 28 per month.

3. It was proposed to build a new G.P.O. building as the existing one at Chowringhee was found unsuitable. The Hon'ble Court of Directors sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,62,670 for the new office and it was hoped that the

new building would be spacious enough for the staff and if need be, it could be enlarged as and when found necessary.

4. Surprisingly there were no letter boxes at the Post Office or counters and receipt was given for each letter delivered at the counter.

5. The weight and postage charged was entered in a separate register.

6. Letter boxes or pillar boxes as they were known then were placed only after postage stamps were introduced.

7. Six Receiving Houses were opened at (1) Bangbazar, (2) Bhowanipore, (3) Boytokhana, (4) Kidderpore, (5) Machoabazar and (6) Park Street.

8. As there were no post office or receiving houses on the right bank of river Hooghly, people living in Howrah and nearby places were greatly inconvenienced as they had to send someone across the river to post their letters. After regular postage stamps were issued, the situation greatly improved.

9. The timings were 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on odd days whereas on Sundays the P.O. worked from 4 to 6 p.m. only.

10. As there were no letter boxes and as the receipt was to be given for each letter delivered at the counter, the work was rather slow. Hardly 100 letters were handed over at the counter before 3 p.m. The receiving houses were open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

11. Letters were delivered twice a day, one at 10 a.m. and the other at 3 p.m. All letters received at the counter after 9 a.m. were sent out by the second delivery, as the postman on the round used to take about six hours to deliver the letters.

12. In the first delivery letters written in English language were mostly delivered whereas letters written in vernacular or the local language and that for distant suburbs were delivered by the second delivery.

13. The work was slow as every letter to be delivered was to be entered in a register in English at the office of despatch and delivery. Besides, in the book of the delivery man, it was to be entered in vernacular. This measure was taken for the safe delivery of the letters.

14. Refused letters specially written in vernacular were not returned to sender.

15. In spite of taking great precaution, it was found that about half-a-dozen letters were missing out of 1,25,000 letters posted.

16. As the number of letters to be delivered greatly increased, the practice of entering letters in a register three times was dropped. The letters were entered only once in the peon's book in vernacular for his guidance.

17. All the mail bags were received at the GPO and they were opened under strict security.

18. All bearing letters were weighed to check that the postage was sufficiently charged as it varied according to weight and distance.

18. The name of the despatching office was written at the back of each letter in vernacular (Bengali) and given to a clerk to register the same. The registering clerk checked the contents of each bag as per the chalan and entered them in another register with the name of the despatching office, the weight and number of letters and postage on unpaid letters received from each office.

20. The 'service' and postage paid letters were placed on the delivery table and the unpaid letters were handed over to a 'Bearing Munshi'. The Munshi kept an account of exact number of letters from different places and of postage due on them and

passed on to another person for checking who stamped them and sent for delivery.

21. Special care was taken of registered letters on a fee of 8 as which were kept aside after sorting, entered in a separate register and handed over to a peon for delivery.

22. As the full details pertaining to a letter, such as full address, description and weight of each letter, the amount of postage due, the place from where they were received, the date of delivery, about seventy seconds were taken for the entry of each letter.

23. The desk or office work for the first morning delivery was done between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m.

24. There were 48 delivery peons out of which 46 were paid Rs. 8 per month and the remaining two received Rs. 6-6-4. No uniform was provided to them by the Post Office, but were provided with a cap and a bell, the cost of which was charged and deducted from their salary. Besides, each delivery peon had to furnish a cash security ranging between Rs. 50 to Rs. 200.

25. The delivery peons did not know English, with the result the sorting clerks wrote the name of the party and address on the letters in Bengali.

26. In the area or locality in which Europeans stayed, a peon used to deliver about 75 letters whereas in the native locality about thirty letters. More time was taken in the native locality because most of the letters were unpaid and amount was to be recovered from the receiver.

27. About one-fifth of the bearing letters received at the post office were refused.

28. Over and above the ordinary letters daily newspapers were also sent by post and as per the P.O. record on 20th February, 1851, about 1200 newspapers were despatched from Calcutta GPO, out of which only 113 newspapers were paid and 1090 were bearing newspapers. This gives

an idea of the work load a delivery peon had to carry.

29. The Post Office decided to adopt the system of registering of letters on a payment of a fee of eight annas in addition to normal postage. The P.O. record shows that during March, 1851, 120 registered letters were posted at the Calcutta GPO and 138 registered letters were received for delivery.

30. As the number of Europeans and the trade increased, there was a regular monthly mail steamer from England to Calcutta which brought over two lakhs letters and newspapers at Calcutta GPO during the year 1850. And likewise 186,987 letters and newspapers were sent out by the mail steamer during the same year.

31. When a steamer arrived the work of sorting was heavy, nearly 12 clerks used to work for the whole day in redirecting the forward letters to addresses.

32. By 1850 population of Calcutta was 400,000 and in spite of it there was no arrangement for the local post. Per day only 400 letters were posted at Calcutta for local delivery.

As the local people were illiterate and indolent, the post office had a difficult task to put the postal system on a proper footing. Out of sheer exasperation Mr. W. Taylor, Post-master General submitted a note on 21st May, 1850, enumerating various difficulties that came in the way of the smooth working of the Post Office. The note makes an interesting reading.

Mr. Taylor graphically described, "The great obstacles to effectual delivery in Calcutta are these: First — the distance of the houses from each other and the peculiar habits under which the resident is inaccessible, save through a phaloux of servants. A letter is delivered to an indolent darwan, who probably sits and smokes over it for five minutes, then hands it to a bearer or chuprasi, who transfers it to another, who gives it to the sirdar, who at his leisure takes it to his master, and after this concatenation of transfers like the letter from Front-boeuf in Lockley's camp, the sirdar condescends to produce the postage.

I have done my best to counteract these difficulties by providing the peons with bells, entreating the public by advertisement not to delay them, and prohibiting the peons from delivering the letters without payment, in vain. The peons were so ridiculed and bullied about their bells, that they became ashamed to ring them. If they expostulate or refuse delivery, they get cuffed or abused. Durwans won't drop their nature or their habits. The community will not stir a finger in co-operation.

I was once living in a lodging house for some days and saw a peon summoned to the top of the house by a gentleman, and then and there cabled, cribbed and confined for ten minutes at the least.

The peons themselves are idle and apathetic from their cradle; dishonesty is their second nature.

The peons cannot read English. The mysterious jugglery by which, in the midst of tumult, confusion and noise, a circle of peons, seated cross legged on the ground, receive the letters from a hoarse clerk who bawls out the names in barbarous mis-pronunciation at the moment he throws down the letter before each man in the circle — the cabalistic signs by which the peons mark each letter at the moment with some hieroglyphic stroke, to designate the English name — these strange proceedings, impossible to describe and only to be appreciated by ocular inspection, will serve to show the monstrous difficulties under which the system of delivery is conducted; and I feel sure that any reasonable man witnessing the process, though suffering himself from the most irritating case of "mis-delivery" conceivable, would with this scene before his eyes, confess that the marvel is, how the thousands of letters that are daily delivered with accuracy and punctuality, can possibly reach their addresses. I beg to make it a particular request that the Commissioner may witness the process of opening and distributing the Steamer Mails from beginning to end, i.e., if he can sustain the trial."

# Indian Military Censorship During the Great World War

By Brig. D. S. Virk

1. As in other fields of knowledge, "Learning never ends" in Philately. I thought that I knew a few things about Indian FPOs and the mails passing through them. Some philatelic colleagues even dubbed me as an "expert" in this line. The inadequacies of my knowledge were brought home to me when I met other "experts" who did not know all that I knew but knew certain other things which I did not know. Recently when an American collector of Indian Military Censor Marks, Lt. Col. Leroy P. Ades of U.S.A. saw my work on Army Post Offices and Philately, he wrote to ask for information on the I.E.F. "D" censor marks of World War I. What on earth were these marks of which he had collected more than sixty samples of wide variety? I had of course written an introductory article on the army censor marks and I had a full knowledge of the working of Indian army censorship during and after World War II but was rather hazy about how military censorship began in the Indian Army and what were its organisation, procedures and tools in the First World War. I could give little help to Col Ades but his query helped to focus my attention on the fascinating subject of military censorship as it affected Indian APO mails and it added a new dimension to my study of Indian Postal History. The first thing I tried to do was to find out if there was any book on this subject which could give me the basic information on which I could build with further knowledge and research. My knowledgeable friends told me that there were no such work but odds and ends were available in Postal History journals, news letters of specialised societies and the collections of their members. Unfortunately philatelic friends, libraries and collections in Delhi could give little help. So for the last one

year I have just kept my mind and eyes open to absorb whatever information and impressions have come my way with the ultimate aim of writing the censorship story for myself and my friends. Apart from the gleanings from some books, magazines, newsletters and auction lists, I have had the benefit of studying valuable World War I material lent to me by my friends and colleagues, Jatia and Pittie. I am mentioning their names because if other Indian collectors followed their generous example, they would help to fill the gaps in our knowledge of this subject.

2. There is no mention of military censorship in any of the campaigns waged by the Indian Army before The Great War of 1914. The seeds of military censorship were probably sown in the Boer War of 1899-1902 which Great Britain fought in South Africa against the Transval Republic and the Orange Free State. Whether or not censorship was imposed on the troops, mail during that War I do not know, but it is certain that the mail of Boer Internees and Prisoners of war was censored and marked. (See Figures 1 & 2). It may be mentioned in passing that no regular unit of the Indian Army or any Indian Field Post Office took part in the Boer War though some British volunteers and many Indian followers were sent from India to reinforce the British Forces. Some of the Boer Prisoners of War were held in a camp at Ahmednagar and their mail was censored. (Figure 3).

3. Soon after the outbreak of the Great War, Indian Expeditionary Forces were sent to France ("A"), East Africa ("B" & "C"), Mesopotamia — present day Iraq ("D") and Egypt ("E" & "F") in the main theatre of operations in

France, British military censorship was already well organised before the first Indian forces reached there at the end of September 1914. Each item of troops, mail posted at an army post office was required to bear a censor mark in token of having been censored. To begin with, numbered circular stamps were issued to each unit. The circular stamp was withdrawn and replaced by a square one in December 1914. Thereafter there were periodical replacements by newer stamps of different designs. The ones which I have seen so far are illustrated in Figures 4 to 10. On their arrival in France, the Indian units came under British military censorship and were issued with the numbered censorship stamps current from time to time. Lt. Col. Pilkington, Director, Postal Services of I.E.F. "A" mentioned in his report that the first thing that he did on disembarkation at Marseilles was to see "the Divisional Censor Officer, who upto the present has been looking after the field postal arrangements." It seems that the British censor stamps were withdrawn from the Indian Units when they left France as in other theatres of War they usually had a separate series under the control of G.H.Q., India.

4. In so far as the Indian Forces in Egypt were concerned, the known censorship story may best be given in the words of Lt Col S. C. Sinclair, Director of (Indian) Postal Services, Egyptian Expeditionary Force:

"Officers of the Indian Field Post Offices censored letters posted in the field during 1914-15. Owing to the gradual increase in the bulk of correspondence, the Indian Field Post Office could not undertake this work any longer. It was arranged that Censor's stamp should be issued to the Officer Commanding each unit who was then responsible for the censorship of the mails of his men. Printed Field Service Post Cards did not of course fall within the scope of censorship and these were supplemented later by the issue of green field service envelopes,

contents of which though ordinarily immune from scrutiny were liable to be examined at any time. Frequently a certain percentage of all censored correspondence was withheld and passed to 'specially appointed Censors' for re-examination. On two or three occasions General Headquarters ordered all mails posted in the field to be detained so that no information could filter through to the outside world until the critical period had passed. On the whole, censorship in the field was expeditious and no great delay to correspondence ever occurred."

5. I have some observations on Sinclair's report. Field Service Envelope was introduced during the War but was redesigned in 1917 and printed in green, thus acquiring the name of Green Envelope. The I.E.F. censor stamp (Fig. 11 & 13) was undoubtedly the best looking and best designed censor stamp of the War. It is seen in various colours such as red, blue and black. These colours however have no special significance. As in other theatres of War unit censorship was later reinforced by regular censorship at the Base. For a Base Censor mark please see Figure 12.

6. It seems that the earlier days of I.E.F. "D" were censorfree. I have seen a cover of April 1915 without any censor imprint. Whatever the time of its introduction, the distinctive stamp design (Fig. 14 & 15) bears the name "D" given to the Force and unlike the stamps for the forces in France and Egypt it has no number. Whether it was given to each unit or to Censor Officers only I do not know. As the stamp is found with many varieties in overall dimensions and the size and thickness of the letter "D", it is safe to say that it was manufactured at different times by different workmen. Though the stamps could have been got from India, I see no reason why they should not have been made at Basrah itself, where necessary facilities were available. In due course, (exactly when, I don't know at present)



the "D" stamps were replaced by numbered "M" ("M" for Mesopotamia) stamps (Fig. 16 & 17).

7. The working of the military censorship at Basrah in 1916 is described as follows by Capt. Owens, the Postal Officer of the original I.E.F. "D":

"The outward mails are much simpler to deal with although there is a lot to be done in disposing of them. The destinations of all articles addressed in vernacular have to be transcribed in English, i.e., the post town of destination of each article has to be recorded on it in red ink. With numerous Indian regiments here from all parts of India this is no light task, especially as the work has to be carried out expeditiously in order that all letters posted during the week in the various post offices as well as at the Base may be sorted and censored in time to be despatched by the outgoing mail steamer. The office of the Chief Censor is in the same building as the Post Office. The sorting staff of the Base Office separates the letters, postcards and packets received from upriver stations as well as those posted in Basrah into three divisions, viz., (1) articles for the United Kingdom and foreign countries and India addressed in English, (2) articles for India addressed in vernacular and (3) articles 'O.H.M.S.' postcards and letters being 'faced' and tied up separately in bundles in a convenient size. These bundles are transferred through separate shoots into the Chief Censor's Office, where they are dealt with by a staff of officers and Indian soldiers controlled by Major Branson, the Chief Censor. As each bundle of letters and postcards is censored, it is retied and transferred to the sorters who deal only with the outward mails. These men work in a portion of the room occupied by the Censor. They sort the contents of the bundles into direct bags for London, Bombay, Karachi and the Karachi-Bombay Sea Post Office and for various important centres in India. As soon as a bag is ready it is sealed, its label stamped

by the Censor and then it is transferred to the mail department. Articles of the parcel and registered mail have to bear an impression of the Censor's stamp before they can be booked by the Post Office and the registered and parcel bags to be closed in the Censor's presence. Nominally only those articles which are in the Base Office by Thursday night are supposed to be dealt with by the Censor, but as a matter of fact, thanks to the efficient arrangements made by Major Branson, all articles received in the Base Office upto within a few hours of the time fixed for the closing of the outward mails are censored and included in the weekly despatch. Considering the mass of mail matter that has to be dealt with each week and censored most carefully, the results are more than satisfactory and reflect creditably on the co-operation between the two departments."

8. In World War I, Aden was only a small side-show. Its Field Force did not exceed the strength of a large Brigade Group, but its censor marks have evoked much interest and study by reason of their distinctiveness and variety. The other day Mr. Robson Lowe asked me if I know the significance of the Star of David Censor mark used in Aden (Fig. 18). My guess was that it was the handiwork of exuberant Censor Officer proclaiming his ancient Hebrew connection. The other Aden marks (Figures 19 to 22) are almost equally distinctive. The report of the Postal Officer, Aden Field Force, Captain Sullivan, does not mention the names of the Postal Censor though he does say that "the Postal Censor and his staff were provided with office accommodation in the Aden Head Office resulting in the expeditious disposal of mails. The Postal Censor upto July 1918 had no (sorting) staff and the work was done by the civil post office staff, causing much extra work." It is possible that some of the above mentioned censor marks were used on the civil mail and the others on the troops mail. I expect to learn a little more on Aden censor-

ship from some knowledgeable Indian collector like Mr. V. S. Dastur.

9. There is no mention of military censorship in the postal reports pertaining to East Africa (I.E.F. "B" & "C") and South Persia. There may be something in Ponnicuick's pamphlet on East Africa but I cannot lay hands on it at the moment. The collectors however do mention that some British censor marks were used in East Africa. Some South Persian covers carry the straight forward two line marks as in Figure 23.

10. Coming nearer home we look first at the Western Frontier. Mail coming to and from East Persia was censored at Quetta. The censor mark is an oval shaped stamp with the British Royal Arms (Fig. 24). On the outbreak of the Third Afghan War in May 1919, a regular Censor's Office was opened at Quetta to deal with the mail matter passing to and from Baluchistan. The Postal Censor Officer, Captain Scovell, gave close co-operation and full assistance to the field postal staff and the mails were not unduly delayed. "The Postal Censor's Office was closed on the 28th August but the censorship of letters from Persia still continued, as was being done previous to the Afghan War." I have as yet no details of the censorship arrangements on the North Western Front where a large portion of the Indian Field Army was deployed against Afghanistan. The collectors have however exhibited covers with numbered censor marks as shown in Figure 25. An aftermath of the Afghan War and in a sense its continuation were the operations of the Waziristan Force during 1919 and 1920. As the Great War was over and no foreign country was involved in these operations "no censorship of letters was established for the Force and this saved the senders and addressees a lot of worry and inconve-

nience. Outgoing parcels were however censored to prevent Government clothing issued extra for the winter being sent out of the Force. This censorship, though not regulated, proved beneficial to the Government."

11. That brings me to the operation of censorship in India itself. My knowledge of these operations is based only on the evidence of covers. It seems that the mails going out to the troops overseas or on the frontiers were not subjected to censorship but the mail coming in from them was opened, censored and closed with labels, small or large, having the inscription "Opened Under Martial Law" (Fig. 33). Foreign mail received in India through civil postal channels were cleared at or near the offices of exchange such as Bombay, Madras and Belgaum and stamped with censor marks and closed with labels such as those shown in Figures 26 to 33.

12. May I repeat in the end that I seek and welcome the co-operation and assistance of Indian collectors and dealers in completing this study of military censorship. Ideally, I would like to see their collections or photostat copies thereof. In cases where distance and security rule that out, I would like to have the following information in respect of each one of their WW I Covers:

- (a) Post office of posting,
- (b) Date of posting,
- (c) Address and superscriptions,
- (d) Stamped or manuscript censorship marks and labels,
- (e) Name and unit of the sender (if known) and
- (f) Postmarks of transit or delivery.

# MILITARY CENSOR MARKS



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

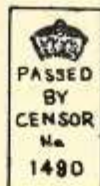


Fig. 9

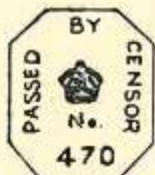


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

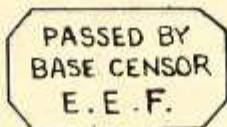


Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19  
*seyaraj*

# MILITARY CENSOR MARKS



Fig. 20



Fig. 21

PASSED BY CENSOR  
1-4TH, BUFFS. E.K.R.

Fig. 22

CENSOR  
SHIRAZ

Fig. 23



Fig. 24

PASSED  
58  
CENSOR

Fig. 25



Fig. 26



Fig. 27



Fig. 28

PASSED FOR TRANSMISSION

PASSED CENSOR  
BOMBAY

Fig. 29

CENSOR BELGAUM

Fig. 30

OPENED  
BY  
CENSOR.

Fig. 31

OPENED BY CENSOR.

OPENED UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Fig. 32 & Fig. 33

# India's Role in Malaysian Philately

By V. N. S. Rau

The territory now known as Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore was the venue where the Portuguese and the Dutch established their trading centres.

Captain Francis Light employed by a Madras firm of merchants as a commandant of a ship trading between Indian Ports and Siam, Sumatra and State of Kedah conceived the idea of persuading the East India Company in Great Britain in view of their successful establishment of Trading centres in India as a coveted place for the further activities of trade in the Far East and with China then being a flourishing trade with all parts of the world. He after an unsuccessful attempt with the Sultanate of Kedah about the year 1771 to establish a trading settlement with considerable perseverance and patience and with a view to impress upon the Directors of the East India Company to establish such a settlement in the Far East approached the Honourable Mr. Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General of India and finally succeeded in obtaining from the Sultan of Kedah the grant of the island of Penang (Pilau Pinang) which was a jungle.

Captain Francis Light who became the Superintendent of the Island gave free land to the few of the Island people with a view to clear the jungle, making it fit for residence and agriculture and production of food crops and essential commodities. The Settlement improved considerably with the result more ships sailed to this Port in the matter of the expansion of trade with China. This resulted in the territory being named as "Prince Edward Island". Trouble again having started at the instance of the Sultan of Kedah, which Captain Light was able to quell, got from the Sultan of Kedah a grant of land for payment of 6,000 Dollars

and later increased to 10,000 Dollars. The territory was ultimately ceded to Britain.

The administration of Penang (Pilau Pinang) was raised to an equal status with that of the Presidency of Madras and Bombay and in or about the year 1830 was put in charge of a Lieutenant Governor, subordinate to the Government of Bengal. Singapore a fishing village under the Princes of Johore was the subject matter of a grant to Sir Stamford Raffles who founded the Settlement after a treaty with the Sultan and later acquired the place for the East India Company. The Settlement at Penang and Malacca after successful attempts to oust the Portuguese and Dutch came under British Rule in 1824 and later all the Settlements merged in Malaya and in 1867 was transferred from the India Office to the Colonial Office which later became a Crown Colony of the "Straits Settlements".

The carriage of mail inside and outside the then Malayan States abroad and India and vice versa was meagre and the beginning of the 19th Century saw the establishment and usage for the transmission of mail by the use of cancellations denoting prepayment for such service and currently understood as the HAND-STRUCK Stamps depicting place of despatch and arrival and carried by the vessels plying between Malaya and the other parts of the World. The method of pre-stamping of mail by such post marks without adhesives which came later, was the type adopted in India under whose sovereignty these Settlements collectively functioned following the provisions of the rules of the Post Office Act 1833-38 extracted till the establishment of the entire settlements come to be known as "Straits Settlements" for stamping letters.

1. The Stamp for all Service, Soldiers' and other free letters or packets is an oval, one and a half inches long by 1 inch wide, bearing the name of the office and the word "Free" and **must be stamped red.**
2. The Stamp for all letters or packets on which postage has been paid, is an oblong, one and a half inches long by one inch wide, bearing the name of the office and the word "Paid", and **must be stamped red.**
3. The stamp for all letters or packets, on which postage has not been paid in advance, is an oblong, one and a half inch long by one inch wide, bearing the name of the office and the word "Bearing", and **must be stamped black.**
4. All Service, Soldiers, or other free letters and packets received from Seaward at any General Post Office are to be stamped with the ship letter Free stamp. **This stamp is circular, one and a quarter inch in diameter, bearing the name of the General Post Office, the date of the month and year, and the words "Ship Letter, Free", and must be stamped in red.**
5. All other letters or packets received from Seaward at any General Post Office are to be stamped **if received by Ship with the Ship Letter bearing Stamp and if by a Government Steamer with the Steam Letter Bearing Stamp.** The former is a square stamp, one and a quarter inch in diameter, bearing the name of the General Post Office, the date of the month and year, and the words "Ship Letter, Bearing", the latter is an octagonal stamp of similar dimensions, but with the words "Steam Letter, Bearing". Both these stamps **must be stamped black.**
6. Letters, papers and parcels required to be transmitted to Foreign Countries via Great Britain or Ireland must be addressed to the care of an Agent or other person in the United Kingdom, by whom the foreign postage demandable at the London General or other Post Office may be paid. That postage cannot be received in this Country, and unless it be paid through an Agent as above described, the letters are liable to be returned to India.

The first adhesives were brought out in 1854 by the East India Company and manufactured under the Lithograph process at the office of the Surveyor-General, Calcutta in the denominations of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1, 2 and 4 Annas. These stamps (Imperforate) were distributed to Post Offices throughout India and Post Offices at Singapore, Penang and Malacca as they were under the control of the Government of India and subordinate to the Post-Master General, Bengal, India.

Thus the India issues of 1854 as aforesaid began to be utilised towards pre-payment for postal services for carriage of mail between Straits Settlements and the rest of the World and they bore cancellations as was prevalent in India by the imposing of a diamond of dots 8 x 8 to 11 x 12 and also the use of the cancellation of hollow dots. Another type of cancellation that was used was similar to the one used in Bengal, India (Spider Web Cancellation) consisting of four line octagon enclosing a large letter 'B' (over a number denoting the Post Office from which it emanated) (vide Fig. 1). The numbers so allotted were of the figures 109, 147 and 172 Malacca, Penang and Singapore respectively. Similar design was again issued in 1859 with the cancellation of a plain '1' of the first numeral and the one numeral with a sloping serif at the top and a thin serif at the bottom with additional lines. Yet another duplex type as was prevalent in India was

adopted with fleurons and a diamond of ten frame lines ascending from left to right enclosing the office number.

Later the "East India" issues of 1865 with similar types of cancellations as was in vogue with the Lithograph stamps of India were adopted during its currency.

On the transfer of "Straits Settlements" on 1st April 1867 from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the postage stamps of India however continued to be used. On 1st September 1867, the East India Stamps overprinted with a crown on the top with new values in cents was adopted (vide Fig. 2) as a pre-trial issue before the commencement of regular issue authorised by the Colonial Office and issued through

the Crown Agents. Permanent issue of postage stamps was issued about the end of December 1867 or beginning of 1868 and the stocks remaining of the over-printed East India stamps as aforesaid with the Crown were being utilised for trial purposes giving rise to a new role that philately had to play exclusively without the Indian Stamps by reason of the transfer from the Government of India aforesaid to cater to the needs of the new territory having an independent status by the issue of new series of stamps for pre-payment for carriage of mail internally and abroad.

Lastly, I must express my gratitude to Dr. F. E. Wood, F.R.P.S.L. and Mr. C. S. Taylor.

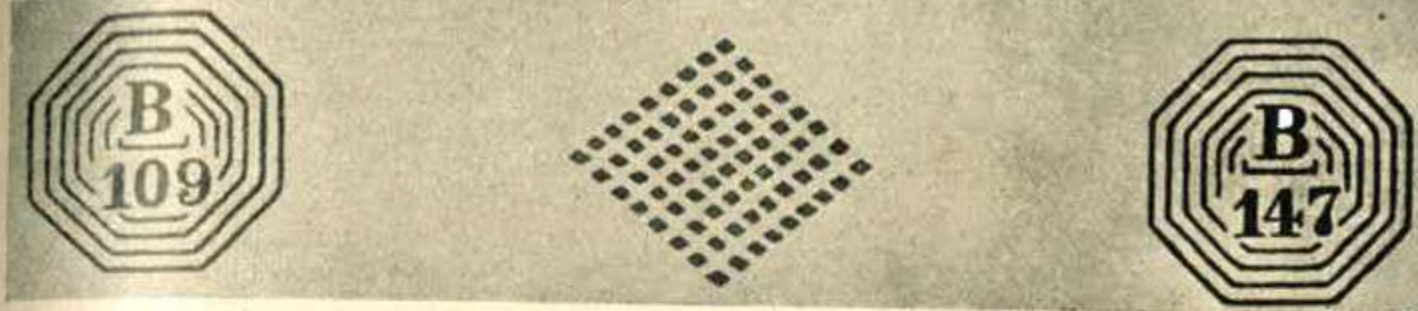


Fig 1  
Type of cancellations used



Fig. 2  
East India stamps overprinted with a crown on the top with new values in cents as a pre-trial issue



# Madras GPO—

## A Pioneer in Postal Service in South India

by M. M. Inamdar

Madras GPO is one of three unique offices in the country to be called as Presidency office, the other two being Bombay and Calcutta. It was opened on 1-6-1786 in a building on the beach in Fort St. George Square. The first Postmaster General was Mr. A. M. Campbell. On opening, the staff consisted of PMG, Dy. PMG, one writer (native assistant) five sorters (clerks), one head peon and ten peons (Postmen), for distributing letters. A Deputy Postmaster was appointed at Masulipatnam, Ganjam, Tanjore and Angengo. The GPO was open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for delivery of letters and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for despatching of letters. There was only one delivery at 10 a.m. As per notification in Fort St. George Gazette dated 20-9-1837 GPO was shifted to a building in Fort St. George on 1-10-1837 commonly called as Old Bank near the North Gate. In 1856 it was moved to the premises in George Town known as Garden House next to General Market. The GPO was shifted to the present building on 26-4-1884. The site of the GPO building was actually a site of actual warfare and it was called "ABERCHROMBIE BATTERY". The Madras Chamber of Commerce appears to have played a prominent role in getting sanction for the new building and Rs. 2 lakhs were allotted in 1868 for the construction of the GPO buildings. But the project was delayed due to various reasons and the building was completed in 1884 only. The construction work was entrusted to Mr. R. F. Chosholm, Consulting Architect, the Government of Madras.

In 1874 during the Governorship of Lord Hobart, the first sod was turned for the foundation of the building. The building was completed at the cost of F 60,000 (about 6 to 8 lakhs of Rupees)

and it houses both Madras GPO and CTO. The floor area is about 50,000 sq. ft. and its twin towers now absent were two feet higher than the then light house.

Madras GPO was from the beginning a pioneer in providing better postal facilities to the public. The postage rates in Madras Presidency were cheaper than at Calcutta and Bombay Presidency. In the beginning the rates were two annas for 100 miles for a weight of 2½ tolas in Bombay and Calcutta, whereas it was one Fanam, i.e., (0-1-3) in Madras. Madras GPO was the first to introduce overland route to Bombay through Ongole and at that time it took 20 to 25 days for the journey from Madras to Bombay. Then in 1790 a weekly service to Bombay from Calcutta and Madras was introduced via Masulipatnam as a transiting office. It took 17 days for a letter to reach Madras from Bombay and 26 days from Bombay to Calcutta. Before the overland route was introduced the mails for Bombay were being sent by Angengo and from there by a steamer to Bombay.

In 1840 the PMG Madras struck upon a novel idea of announcing the arrival of postman in a locality so as to provide prompt delivery. As per notification dated 9-7-1840 the postmen were to be supplied with handbells "which are designed to be rung in the streets with the view of affording speedy announcement of the arrival and to obviate detention of the deliveries at the doors of the houses." The public were also informed and requested "that any person observing the Deliverers failing to ring their bells, intimation of the same be given to PMG in order that the conduct of such delivering peons, be enquired into and if necessary punishment inflicted."

Madras GPO was first to introduce window delivery of letters in 1850. There was a boat contract to bring mail from steamer to harbour. The contractor was required to provide one tinsel, 12 rowers and one watch boy as per tender called for vide Fort St. George Gazette dated 16-5-1851. The mails were carried from the harbour to GPO in bullock carts with three coolies accompanied by a postal official who was so sincere that he was following the cart shouting with raised hands to prompt the cartman to drive speedily. Then another innovation was introduced by PMG in 1855 for intimating the arrival of the Steamer from Calcutta. Hitherto gun shots were fired to announce the arrival of the steamer. But as the town developed some people at farther end were not able to hear the sound of the gun and so it was decided that red flags should be hoisted on GPO and all town post offices to indicate the arrival of the steamer.

In 1834 the working hours of the GPO was changed as from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and for letters posted from 6 p.m. and 6-45 p.m. late fee of one Rupee was charged. There were two deliveries at 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. In 1854, there were 3 deliveries at 7 a.m., 11 a.m. and at 3 p.m.

As per notice in Fort St. George Gazette dated 25-3-1834, subsidiary Post Offices were opened at Vepery and Royapettah and they were located at No. 18, Hunter Street and at Moubrays Saulah Street, in the High Road leading from Club House to Moubray's garden adjoining bayar No. 53 Royapetta respectively. By 1850 there were 5 receiving houses or town post offices, viz., Royapetta, Vepery, Blacktown, Triplicane and St. Thome.

In 1856 Madras GPO was bigger than Bombay GPO as there were 82 clerks in Madras GPO whereas there were 45 clerks in Bombay GPO.

In 1855, the PMG issued a notice calling for 160 horses for hire for conveyance of mails between Madras

and Ellore. For each horse was paid Rs. 18 per month as hire and Re. 1 bonus for every ½ mile speed above 6½ miles in an hour. In order to provide service stables for PO it was decided with the consent of Military Department to utilise for the purpose Military Commissariat Mule Lines on the beach and to provide stabling elsewhere at the cost of the PO for the Commissariat department. These stables were constructed when the new GPO building was completed in 1884, as per the report of PWD Department for 1885-86.

The first letter box in Madras town was placed at Tannah (Moubrays Road) adjoining of Sir Williams Buston residence on 28-9-1855 and it was kept open only from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A pillar letter box was planted on 8-6-1870 at the police station a mile beyond Cattewalk and near the residence of Europeans and East Indians at Ennore.

By April 1870 mails for Bombay by overland Express train were being closed on every Wednesday early morning. The last clearance of the letter box was at 4-15 a.m. and upto 5 a.m. with late fee of 0-2-0. At the Railway Terminals at Royapuram a clerk was posted to receive late fee letters from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. with late fee of 0-4-0. The journey time from Madras to Bombay was 3 days and 6 hours.

Madras GPO formed the nucleus from the beginning for the development of Postal facilities for the whole of South India. At that time the Madras circle included the present Tamil Nadu circle, Andhra circle, Kerala circle and Karnataka circle except four districts of Bombay Karnataka. On introduction of Postage stamps in 1854, the number of post offices increased from about 130 in 1850 to about 400 in 1873. Thereafter there was phenomenal development of postal services and Madras circle became one of the biggest circles in India.

## Endorsements—

# One of the Many Facets of Philately

By M. T. Karunakaran

Last year in India-80 I had an opportunity to exhibit a few of the Endorsements under the title "Overprints, Surcharges and Endorsements." Though Overprints and Surcharges are widely known, Endorsements are comparatively little known and rather uncommon.

Overprints, Surcharges and Endorsements come under one group as they are printed only as an addition to the existing stamp. While Overprints and Surcharges are added to the existing design, Endorsements are printed on the reverse or the back of the stamp. Printing at the back was described as an underprint in the early days. But later, when logically thought over, as they were not actually printed under or beneath the design on the front of the stamp, but printed only on the reverse or back of the stamp they have been termed as "Endorsements".

These endorsements are not a regular feature of all the stamp issuing countries of the world. In fact only a handful of them have subscribed to this idea, during these 141 years of stamp issuing. Presumably most of the postal authorities all over the world do not consider this feature as an useful or effective or a long lasting medium.

However, the main purposes behind the printing of such endorsements were to provide a description of the design, to advertise, to propagate or to furnish information to people, to give protection to the users (firms) and to substitute or provide a pseudo watermark,

Nicaragua, Portugal, New Zealand, Great Britain, United States of America, Mauritius, Fiume (Italy), Tasmania, Sweden, Spain, Greece, India and Brazil were the few countries that have subscribed to this idea to some extent.

Among these countries Nicaragua has issued a series of Endorsements. The basic stamp was not a postal issue. Stamps of the Railway Company's Administration were initially surcharged for fiscal purposes. These fiscal stamps were then endorsed with the word 'Correos' and the date, together with the face value of the postal rate. These stamps had to be endorsed probably for the simple reason that the fiscal surcharges were already printed on the face of the stamp and a second overprinting on the front would create confusion. After an interval of several years during 1976 Nicaragua issued a set of stamps on the theme "Stamp on Stamps". The endorsements on these stamps carried the particulars of the famous classic stamp depicted in the design. As the endorsements are printed over the gum, care should be taken to keep the gum intact as any washing or disturbance of the gum would destroy or spoil the endorsement printed over it.

Portugal issued in 1895 a set of 5 stamps marking the 700th anniversary of the birth of St. Antony of Padua, Patron Saint, depicting the various events of his life. Each of these stamps was printed with a prayer in Latin on the reverse. In recent times on a number of occasions, Portugal has issued stamps with endorsements. During 1968, a set of 7 stamps (S.G. 1346-52) were issued in connection with LABRAPEX 1969 STAMP EXHIBITION IN MADEIRA — PEARL of Atlan-

tic. Then followed two more issues during 1969 and 1970 with endorsements. All these stamps, have trilingual (Portuguese, French and English) captions printed on the back,

Fiume, under Allied Occupation in Italy from 17 November 1918 to 12 September 1919 had issued a set of stamps on 18th May 1919 commemorating the 200th day of peace. These stamps were sold at a premium over and above the Postal value in aid of students of Fiume, prosecuting their studies in Italy. All these stamps were endorsed faintly in black with the words "POSTA DE FIUME" three times in parallel lines, which possibly served as pseudo watermark.

During 1893, New Zealand issued some of its 1882 definitives with commercial advertisement printed on the back. They are known on S.G. Nos. 195/200, 201a, 203, 205, 206a, 207b, 216b/g and 216i/j (most), 218/20 and 224b/228b (most). "Beecham's pill for nervous ills"; "Lattey, Livermore and Co. Ltd., Wellington, Ask for their pure Indian and Ceylon Teas"; "use Kaitangata coal cheapest and cleanest" were a few of the advertisements, that were printed on the back in reddish mauve ink.

Great Britain also has a few endorsements to its credit. The 1887-1892 Jubilee issue 1/2d vermilion stamp with "PEARS SOAP" printed on the back over the gum, though not officially recognised, has been sought for by philatelists and hence gained a premium in value. Before the introduction of Postal Orders small payments were made in postage stamps which could be cashed at the post offices. Such arrangements at times resulted in theft and to prevent it, some of the main commercial users requested the post office to print certain markings on the back of the stamps before issuing to them. This official protection was accorded to five organisations only. They are J & C Boyd & Co, Friday St, Capestake, Moore, Crompton & Co, London; W. H. Smith

& Son; Great Eastern Railway and Oxford Union Society.

The stamps of Tasmania, an island south of Australia, now one of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, issued in 1899, also are known with advertisements printed on the back.

Hungary issued in 1925 a set of 8 stamps depicting sporting scenes. These stamps were sold at a premium of 100% in aid of Sport Associations. An inscription to this effect appears on the back of each stamp.

The 1852 reprints of Netherlands stamps are found with the word "NADRUK" printed at the back and the impression is blurred.

During 1915 Russia issued currency stamps depicting the designs of its earlier issues, "Tercentenary of Romanov dynasty" printed on card with inscription on the back. The inscription reads "Having circulation on a par with silver subsidiary coins." Again the stamps with the same designs issued in 1917 carried the inscription "copper money" in place of "silver subsidiary coins". Though they were neither intended nor authorised for postal purposes they were occasionally used on mail.

These stamp of San Marino commemorating the delivery of the Flag of the Arab to San Marino (S.G. 92) was inscribed on the back with the name of the designer, etc.

Lately the United States of America also has joined the field, when it issued a set of 10 commemorative stamps on 'Postal Service Employees' during 1973. Beneath the gum on the reverse of each stamp particulars of Postal turnover such as the number of stamps sold yearly by the U.S. Post Offices, the number of letters and packages handled yearly by the Postal Employees and the total weight, the coverage of distances done by the postal employees on each delivery day to deliver the mail, etc., and with the

caption 'People serving you' as the bottom line, were printed in emerald colour. While these endorsements furnished information to the public they also served as propoganda for the postal service.

Mauritius issued a set of stamps (SG 427/30) on Tourism, on the reverse of which was printed over the gum the details of tourist attraction.

A posthorn design in blue colour was printed on the reverse of stamps of Sweden on the issues of 1886-91 (SG 29 to 38) just before its stamps, began to be issued with water mark.

Some of the 1941-45 definitive issues of Brazil are found with three parallel green lines vertically on the back. The stamps were with varied water mark and the endorsed lines served as additional protection.

Some of the Indian map series definitives were printed with serial numbers on the back, before the sheets were made in strips of 9 each and pasted to form coils for issue through stamp vending machine. 5 np, 10 np, 20 np, 25 np and 50 np were the deno-

minations that were issued in such coils. While the coils were to simplify the issue of stamps, the numbers served the purpose of accounting of the post office.

The control numbers on the back of the imperforate stamps of the early issues of Greece and the control numbers in various colours on the back of various definitives of Spain since 1875, the letters 'N.D.' on the back of the stamps of Northern Southern Districts of Thurn and Taxis, which later became part of the German Empire, the Graphite lined issues of Great Britain, all come under this category of collection.

The 1861-65 issues of Prussia, a German State though they were issued rouletted, are also found imperf, but in this state the post marked ones are looked upon as proofs and some of these which carry inscription at the back are essays.

These Endorsements which are not so common provide scope for research and can surely be classed as one among the many fascinating and absorbing facets of Philately.

# ENDORSEMENTS



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MAURITIUS IS KNOWN  
 AS A LAND OF RAINBOWS,  
 WATERFALLS, AND  
 SHOOTING STARS. THE  
 SCENERY DEPICTED  
 SHOWS ONE OF THE  
 WATERFALLS WITH A  
 RAINBOW.



MAURITIUS  
 TAPE  
 FROM  
 LIBRARY  
 NORTH

BERGHAN'S  
 PILLS  
 FOR  
 NERVOUS ILLS

Lately Lamented  
 WHEELER  
 L.A. 1907



NICARAGUA  
 14



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
 6

TELEGRAMS  
 MADE Y RANDEZ  
 1976  
 197  
 3 cts  
 NICARAGUA

MAURICIO - 1847  
 Oficina de Correos, 14  
 This is the first postage stamp from Mauritius. It was issued in 1847 and depicts a figure. The stamp is valued at 14 cents.

# Philately - A Leisure Time Hobby

By G. Madan Mohan Das

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

Thus each human being has the collector's urge, but collecting as expressive of a leisure time occupation is very varied and depends on age, intelligence, profession, the amount of time available, and the financial position of the collector. In ancient times the opportunities for collecting were much more limited, as we now understand it. STAMPS, whose issue is subject to national and international agreements, which appear in every country of the world and which because of their creative pictorial form can be small works of art, do in fact provide the ideal material for a hobby and so it is hardly surprising that there are more than 70 million philatelists in the world today. For a long time now we have ceased to regard the stamp collector as a crank flourishing tweezers and

a magnifying glass; on the contrary stamp collecting is often considered as one solution to the problem of leisure time activity. The problem of how to spend time over the long weekend, of a hobby for the evening hours, is becoming of ever increasing importance. How can a weary business man find relaxation, how can retired people acquire a new interest in life, how can we overcome the boredom of a long but necessary convalescence with all its psychological consequences? We are asked oftener than ever before about the possibilities of a hobby. It cannot be denied that one of the finest hobbies is PHILATELY, and it is the purpose of this article to awaken an understanding for it. The beginnings of a philatelist are no doubt to be found in youth, when more or less all boys, and girls too, collect stamps. Most of them give up between the ages of 15 and 20 for all kinds of understandable reasons but those who continue or go back to stamp collecting may be called true disciples of the hobby. The better the financial situation the more money can be spent on a hobby, for every hobby costs money. With stamp collecting there is the important difference that it has not only an idealistic value but an undeniable commercial background. We need only remember that the greatest collection in the world, that of Count Ferrari, which was to be bequeathed after his death to the German Post Museum, was seized in France in the First World War and auctioned, and the money was used as reparations. It realised millions of francs. Today, too, among international dealers at large auctions there is a turnover of millions in all the currencies of the world; in fact certain small States live from the revenue brought in by the sale of stamps. Stamps are becoming stocks and shares for the man in the street, the prices are rising, stamps are used as an investment, they are becoming the

object of money speculations. Stamp collecting should remain a hobby and should not deteriorate into a form of speculation or into a mania. For only then will philately continue to be a cultural and instructive force, a valuable help in school work, which helps us to relax and to maintain a sense of values, which gives us pleasure after the day's work is done.

Now, how does one collect stamps?

Today, only the wealthiest people of this world can collect all the stamps in the world, for such general collections are completely impossible because of the enormous variety of stamps already in existence and the large number of those which appear from day to day. If one considers the separate issues in India right from Scinde Dawks, East India Company issues, Victoria, Edward, George V, George VI, Post Independence issues, one will realise how difficult it is to complete even a collection covering a limited area as such. All this leads us to the modern trend in constructive philately, the collecting of sets of a given motif. It is no longer necessary to complete one series or all the issues of one country, the collection is based on the motif shown on the stamp. The large number of possible groups of motifs gives the collector a free hand to use his own ideas and his ingenuity. There has been an enormous development in this type of collecting during the past few years. The keen collector whose interests lie in this direction continues to find new inspiration among the stamps of all the countries in the world, many of which have great artistic value. This is how we have collections on subjects like "FAMOUS MEN OF LEARNING"; "SCIENTISTS"; "MUSICIANS"; "PAINTERS"; and wonderful collections on "Christian Themes". The Swiss "Pro Juventute Series" provide collectors of flower motifs with new additions every year, and last year's Olympic Games brought collectors of sports motifs many beautiful stamps. Among these motif collections we find

very valuable ones on historical subjects, which are really historical documents as such.

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

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

But there are few people who would not like to have a chance to see a



blue or a red SCINDE DAWK, a blue or a red Mauritius, a "Basle Dove", a Cape of Good Hope "triangle", stamps which mean something even to the uninitiated layman. The attraction may be the intoxicating idea — often greatly exaggerated — of the enormous value of such rare collection pieces, or it may be the attractive stories attached to these stamps. Much of the charm of the classical stamps can be expressed in a well-known sentence: "Those who succumb to the aura surrounding old classical stamps will always be true to them." But there is nothing pathological about this succumbing and it should not be taken too seriously.

The rapid development in aviation from air-mail services with Zeppelins and the aeroplanes to modern rocket

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

# Topical Collection—"A Personal Satisfaction"

By D. H. Rao

Collecting stamps — a hobby as such is no more a hobby. Hobby means an activity or interest pursued for pleasure or relaxation and not as a main occupation. All that myth about 'Stamp Collecting' being "King of Hobbies" are all of by-gone days. Today — as in every aspect of life a severe competition has set in this pleasure field. To pass time one goes to see a football match, but, alas! What happens? Spectators divide themselves and get carried themselves along with the game and then unpleasant things set in. Stamp collecting is no exception. In the grand-father's days these were collected to give one a personal satisfaction. Many a friend who goes from country to country remembered his old friend at home and dropped a letter. Thus grew the grand-father's collection.

It was mentioned that 'Penny blacks' issued first, were used for decorating the walls of the home. So you find the first use of a 'stamp' — being used for personal satisfaction.

Now, what was started as a hobby or a mere personalised collection, soon became a field of competition. Thanks to philatelic exhibitions. A person slowly opens out his collections to show to his close friends, then to his club members, small town exhibitions and then to State level exhibitions. Finally one lands in now what is known as 'International Exhibition'. As in every field 'might is right', or money power, philatelic field is no exception. Early stamps were so carelessly used or much less preserved, the few ones which were left out or preserved came to be known as 'Classics'. Well, every stamp collector however he is devoted to his hobby cannot possess these stamps. So a new term sets in known as 'value'. Only those who have enough money could afford to place these stamps in

their collection and could both admire and enjoy. Thus you find the 'richness' in the collection reflects nothing but the richness one has.

The new question is — what is to be done. The answer was why not collect on a theme or topic. The requirement in this field was knowledge and a dedication to the subject and not necessarily money. There are many stamps to suit one's pocket and on every theme.

It is one's genius, aspiration and originality, which produces a theme. This research is done purely for one's own satisfaction. He may use any raw materials such as maps, picture post card, i.e., other than stamps to show his research and the story behind it.

I think a thematist or topicalist has to do more research than a 'Classic philatelist' as the former has to read more books on the selected subject.

After selection of one theme, he sets out his collection on Album pages. Now the trouble starts — how to arrange the collections. To him each and every piece is an important link in the chain. But there are regulations and rules and finally learned judges. One has to follow the rules of the game rigidly to get the award. What is the price one has to pay to get these coveted awards — sacrifice your "personal satisfaction" and follow the rules.

Recently there were articles about a thematic exhibition. How to participate in it. Whether for a thematic exhibit it is advisable to follow the rules of F.I.P. or leave it to the individual taste. For example in a "ships on stamps" display a senior collector had used profusely maps, photographic and allied material along with stamps. But F.I.P. Rules do not recognise drawings and photography. A

thematic collection is an individual's effort to project the theme or story he has to say. It is a research by itself. The senior collector says: "The thematic collection starts where the philatelic collections end. We are interested in the ship depicted on the stamp, not the method by which the stamp is printed or perforated, or the watermark."

This has prompted a great controversy and the President of THEMSEL 83 in Basle has planned to conduct the exhibition in two categories — one corresponding to F.I.P. and the other one for all other collections.

I quote Mr. E. W. Argyle, President of Ship Stamp Society, U.K., who has collected ships on stamps for the last 40 years. (a) It is an individual hobby that can be followed in spare time or it can be as group hobby. (b) One can specialise, collecting only the type of ships one likes. (c) One can go the whole hog and collect oil ships.

This is a hobby not an investment.

My personal view: To collect what is possible and within your reach stamps, books and others. But do justice to what one collects and exhibit the same for the sake of exhibition and knowledge.

# New Facets of Philately

By O. P. Bhatnagar

The universal popularity of the hobby of stamp collecting lies in the fact that it has no hard and fast rules. Its followers have not only the full freedom of collecting what they like but also have a large and varied scope for selecting any particular type of collection to build up viz., (1) a general collection of the whole world's stamps (now impossible task for any one in view of the extremely large number of stamps one has to get together); (2) a collection of a single country or a group of countries; (3) a collection of countries by area or continentalwise like Asia, Africa, Europe, etc.; (4) a collection showing the postal history of a country; (5) a collection of the cancellations and post-marks of a country; (6) a collection of a specialised study of single stamp or a particular issue or group; (7) subject matter collecting called Topical collecting by the Americans and Thematic by the British followers of this kind of stamp collecting. Twenty-five years back, philatelists declined to consider it a branch of philately. But now it has been universally recognised as a part of philately. So much so that in the National and International Stamp Exhibitions largest number of entries are received in this group. In the International Stamp Exhibition — INDIA-80 held in New Delhi in January 1980 under F.I.P. patronage there were 65 entries in this Group.

2. A new branch of philately came into existence in June 1959 when the Cinderella Stamp Club was formed in U.S.A. The club was formed for those interested in "not in the catalogue material" such as local postage stamps, revenue and fiscals, telegraph stamps, Railway and bus stamps, bogus or phantom issues, advertising labels, registration labels, Christmas and T.B. Seals, forgeries, stamp-like labels, stamps prepared but not issued, mystery issues and similar "Cinderellas".

3. It is indeed heartening to note that there is today greater number of

collectors than ever before of Cinderella material. Cinderella philately is the most interesting field in the accepted general field of philately. Collections of Fiscals of India and Malaya States were displayed in the INDIA-80. A book "Cinderella Stamps" written by wellknown Philatelic writers M/s L. N. & M. Williams appeared in the market as back as in the year 1971. Cinderella and Revenue stamps were major items offered at a Robson Lowe Auction Sale in October 1980.

4. Other item of collection which is drawing attention of the stamp collectors is "Meter Stamp". In 1903 the Franking Machines came into operation for the first time. Postal Department is encouraging the use of franking machines by the clubs, societies and firms. At present meter stamps do not offer much scope to the collectors but with the rapid advances in the modern technology and the increased postal traffic some fascinating material of meter stamps is likely to appear in near future. It is interesting to note that the early examples of Indian Meter Stamps used before 1930 are very scarce and command good price.

5. Another branch of philately which has recently drawn attention of the stamp collectors is MAXIMAPHILY i.e., collection of Maximum-cards. Maximum Cards are known since 1930. Maximaphily has its aim to collect postage stamps affixed to picture post-cards complying with certain criteria of concordance and post-marked under certain conditions of concordance. Such cards are called Maximum Cards. This name is justified by the fact that its three postal components, viz., (1) the postage stamp, (2) the picture post-card, (3) the post-mark together present the Maximum possible concordance. Commission has been appointed by the F.I.P. for this branch of Philately. In the INDIA-80 International Stamp Exhibition there were 11 entries in the sub-class Maximaphily of Group 10 — OTHER COLLECTIONS. This is the most interesting branch of Philately.

During a recent visit to the Philatelic Bureau, Madras, I noticed a gentleman who had come to buy some new issues, accompanied by his son of about twelve years. When the father started ordering for four copies of each of the new issues available, the son got puzzled. "Why, Daddy, why should you buy four copies when one would do for my collection?" he asked. The father replied, "Well, my dear fellow, one copy is, of course, for your collection. And the other copies are just for keeping by and by the time you grow up, you will find that they have risen very much in value."

Now, this approach to the hobby of stamp collecting with an emphasis on the money aspect of it, which was being inculcated in the youngster, in the early stages of his initiation into the hobby, is not the proper approach. But, actually nowadays, a stamp collector's attention is being increasingly drawn to the monetary aspect, even from the early stages of his stamp collecting career to the detriment of the healthy development of the hobby. As a result, many a newcomer to the hobby turns to dealing in stamps within the first few months.

If only one explores the money angle of Philately, in depth, one would discover that it is not cakes all the way. In such an exploration, several factors turn up, which are very often lost sight of in a casual study.

It should never be forgotten that a stamp collection cannot be classed as cash. It may be as good as cash, but is not, however, cash. It cannot even be equated with bullion. It cannot just be taken to the market place and sold like gold or silver. Stamps have an exclusive market of their own.

While like any other commodity, the price of a stamp is also influenced by

the laws of supply and demand, there is this important difference to be noted, i.e., the price of a particular stamp, should it turn out to be a rare one, could reach astronomical heights, if there were several persons competing against one another to possess it.

The market for stamps is fickle, often as all stamps do not appreciate in value uniformly with age. Also, the stamps of the various countries of the world vary in popularity widely. Some rise and fall at different periods. The popularity factor, therefore, plays a big part in determining the value of a stamp collection. While stamps of countries like Great Britain, Australia, Canada, France, Switzerland, the U.S.A., etc., are ever popular and have a wide following all over the world, there are several others which have only restricted following. The stamps of Burma were quite popular in our country in the fifties, but now, there are not many who are keen on them. Soon after our country attained independence, many collectors in Britain lost interest in India's stamps. Instances like these are many.

The next very important factor which influences the value of stamps is their condition. In the early days of stamp collecting, we knew only mint or unused copies and used copies. Now the grading has become very elaborate starting with unmounted or never hinged mint copies fetching a considerable premium over the mounted mint ones. This talk of unmounted mint is all right where the climate does not play havoc with the stamp, affecting the gum and the paper.

In our vast country, tropical conditions are in evidence in most places. Humidity and salinity upto a sizable percentage are basic features of the atmosphere in cities like Madras and Calcutta. In these places, the white

gum on the back of mint stamps turns brown in course of time and rust spots start appearing all over the reverse. The use of French chalk, protective mounts, etc., do not seem to be of much avail in guarding the stamps against such changes. Many of us have had the galling experience of London dealers returning unsold, many of our valuable stamps with the remark "Stamp Tropicalised". Once this remark attaches to a stamp, its value goes down automatically.

If in spite of all these handicaps, we are able to build up a decent collection and also maintain it in a fairly good condition, we get to the most frustrating part of the whole matter when we want to sell the collection and set out to find a buyer. The point, here, is that not only must a buyer be found, but he must be a person who needs our stamps most and will, therefore, be willing to make a good offer which will satisfy us. We often find, however, that this does not happen.

What happens many times, is somewhat on the following lines. When we show the collection with high hopes, to a prospective buyer, he thumbs through the album in a casual manner, makes a few disparaging remarks about some of the items and finally makes grudgingly, a low offer, which leaves us utterly dismayed and frustrated. When we think of the toil and care that we have bestowed on the collection against the sullen opposition of the spouse and other members of the family, spending hard earned cash, often unwisely, on fancied items, the buyer's offer leaves all our high hopes

shattered to the ground. The frustration is more keenly felt by persons who have taken to stamp collecting keeping only the money angle in their view throughout and not enjoying it as a hobby.

It is true that stamps cost a bit of money these days. Gone are the days when we could blissfully swap a stamp for a stamp, without bothering about its value. So, a certain amount of money needs to be spent on building up a stamp collection. It, therefore, follows that every stamp collection will have a certain monetary value and so cannot be expected to be just gifted away. But to concentrate too much on the money aspect of stamp collecting, talking of stamps as an investment, as a hedge against inflation and so on is not at all conducive to the healthy growth of stamp collecting as a hobby.

Stamp collecting is first and foremost a fine and instructive hobby. It helps one to find relaxation and diversion for a while, now and then, from the worries and problems of life. If the hobby is to grow and spread ever wider among the young and old alike the monetary angle of philately should not be played up too much. Money spent on stamps acquired for one's collection must be treated as having been spent for the pleasure of possessing them and not as an investment with prospects of future gain. The gain, if any, could be incidental. The young, especially, should be guided to take to stamp collecting as a fascinating hobby and not as a money making proposition.

# Night Post Office - A Study

By A. Raoof

The Indian Postal Department has become part and parcel of our daily life. There has been a rapid growth of Industries and Commerce and of course population too! after the Second World War and in the post-Independence era. This has necessitated the Department to formulate various schemes to spend-up the enormous increase in posted articles and allied branches. It was late Sri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai who in early 50's introduced the All-up night Air Mail Service and to take advantage of this scheme, Mobile Post Offices and Night Post Offices were formed later. Though All-up Night Air Mail Service has since been scrapped, yet the Mobile Post Offices and Night Post Offices have come to stay. This illustrates the important roles being played by these two Post Offices to cater to the needs of one and all.

We in India always harp on the glorious past forgetting the present. So is the case with the Postal History. Philatelists try to acquire a cover of early period and yet throw the present day covers to the dust bin. Remember, these present day covers are part of the Modern Postal History. Similarly a study of Night Post Office is part of the Modern Postal History.

What is a Night Post Office? Generally, the working hours of a Post Office are fixed by the Head of the Postal Circle according to the timings given in the Post Office Guide. Yet a few selected Post Offices have the working hours extended before and/or after normal hours are called 'Night Post Offices' to serve the public interest. The Director-General may extend the working hours of such Night Post Offices upto 8-30 p.m. only and may keep them open on Sundays also.


These Night Post Offices transact only those transactions which have been authorised by the Director General. Normally, these Night Post Offices book registered articles, V.P. Articles, receive Telegraphic Money Orders and sell Indian Postal Orders, National Defence Certificates and Postage Stamps. Upto 7-30 p.m. Deposits into Savings Bank Accounts are accepted and payment of T.M.Os. will also be effected upto 6-30 p.m. But on Sundays, there is no S.B.A. transactions, payment of M.Os. and T.M.Os. and delivery of ordinary mails including Registered articles, but all other transactions will be conducted as on other week days.

In Tamil Nadu Circle, the following Post Offices function as Night Post Offices :

(1) Coimbatore H.O.; (2) T. Nagar H.O., Madras; (3) Madurai H.O.; (4) Talakulam H.O.; (5) Pondicherry H.O.; (6) Tanjore H.O.; (7) Teppakulam S.O.; (8) Trichy Fort S.O.; (9) Tuticorin H.O.; (10) Vellore H.O.; (11) Madras G.P.O.; (12) Anna Road H.O., Madras; (13) Salem H.O.; and (14) Erode H.O.

The post marks and name stamps used by some of the above Post Offices give a fascinating study.

The general pattern with regard to the 'Name Stamps' is observed to be, the mention of the name of the P.O. in full, followed by contraction 'NPO' in English with an exact transliteration

in Hindi . The N.P.Os at Salem, Coimbatore (Fig. 1), Thyagarayanagar (Madras) (Fig. 2) and Thanjavur are found to use Name Stamps of this Category. Some Night P.Os. are however using name stamps with the letters 'P.O.' alone in contraction preceded by the word 'Night' in full, with its exact full Hindi transliteration

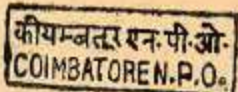


Fig 1



Fig 2

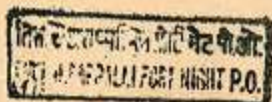


Fig 3



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

**नेट** Tiruchy Fort Night Post Office (Fig. 3) is found to come under this category. A slight deviation seen in respect of Madurai Night Post Office is that the letters 'P.O.' are altogether absent in the name stamps which simply reads therefore, as 'Madurai Night' with Hindi transliteration **मदुरे नेट** (Fig. 4). Yet another deviation in this category relates to Trivandrum (which is of course in Kerala Circle) is that the Hindi spelling for 'Night' is found so **नाईट** (Fig. 5) and not **नेट** as is found in Tamil Nadu Circle. So much with regard to Name Stamps.

As regards cancellation stamps, we have very interesting things to observe. The Madras G.P.O. Date Stamp (Regn.) (Fig. 6) is seen to have the three English Letters 'NPO' neatly accommo dated within the innermost concentric circle below the hour types. The Hindi equivalent is conspicuously absent. The Madurai Night P.O. (Fig. 7) is found to use a cancellation stamp in which the Hindi version is not a trans literation but a translation of the English 'Night' as **रात्री** in Hindi. A very interesting deviation even in this matter of translated expression of 'Night' is the cancellation stamp of Thanjavur N.P.O. (Fig. 8) the translated expres sion is found **रात डाक घर**

Readers will thus see that the sub ject of Night P.O. offers great scope for detailed study of the varied ver sions of cancellations and considering that there are many many more Night P.Os. throughout the country the sub ject should become one of absorbing interest for collection as well as study.