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----- STAMPS OF INDIA COLLECTORS COMPANION -----
The News, Views, & Features on Philately & Postal Services of India
Issue # 308 - September 27, 2007. Published Every Thursday
Edited by Madhukar and Savita Jhingan

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I N T H I S I S S U E

Forthcoming Stamp Issues  
New Stamps Released  
New Postal Stationery  
Recent Special Postmarks & Covers  
Auction Action  
Recent & Forthcoming Events  
Readers Forum: Dr Reuben (Ben) A Ramkissoon,

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JHINGANS JOTTINGS

Hi

The search for the answer of the question of the Issue #306 in itself was very interesting and rewarding. You may have heard 'every stamp has a story to tell' but we found some stamps have may have many stories to tell and this was one such issue. On the way we gathered many snippets related with this issue and added to the answer.

Not many readers participated although some readers gave it more than one try, but no one got it right. This simply reinforces the pressing need to document the philatelic history of India especially since 1947.

Please do let us know your views on the following piece of interesting but little known facts of Indian philately.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a period of armed uprisings against colonial authority of the British East India Company in India between early 1857 and mid 1858. The period and events are often referred to as the First War of Indian Independence. This had diverse political, economic, military, religious, and social causes. Although rebellions were not rare in Company controlled India these events escalated into a large-scale rebellion which broke out on May 10, 1857 at Meerut Cantonment about 70 kilometers from Delhi. This brought about the end of Company's rule in India replacing it with direct rule by the British government for the next 90 years.

To commemorate the centenary of this historic event a set of 2 stamps depicting Rani Lakshmibai, an icon of Indian freedom movement, and a symbolic design was issued on August 15, 1957. These were the first commemorative issue in decimal currency that was introduced earlier that year on April 1.

India gained its independence from British rule on August 15, 1947 and it became a national holiday as Independence Day. India Post had

earlier issued Mahatma Gandhi mourning issue on the first anniversary and Archeological definitive series on the second anniversary of independence.

The stamps were issued in the denominations of 15 and 90 Paise the basic inland letter rate and initial airmail letter rate to Europe respectively that were to come in to force on September 18, 1957, five weeks later from the date of issue!

The denominations of Indian postage stamps have always corresponded to the prevailing postage rates and it was the first and only occasion that the new rate stamps were in place before a rate change. When the Decimal Currency was introduced on April 1, 1957 the rates remained unchanged and 2 annas inland letter rate was made equivalent to 13 Naye (New) Paise. On September 18, 1957 it was rounded off or rationalized to a more convenient 15 Paise.

India Post supplied stamps and the first day covers to five principal philatelic bureaus at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, New Delhi, and Nagpur plus three selected head post offices relevant to the issue at Lucknow, Kanpur, and Allahabad. These 8 places provided special first day of issue postmark on both the days, August 15 and 16. The remaining 8 philatelic bureaus provided special first day of issue postmark only on August 16.

The 90 Paise stamp was supplied to all 13 philatelic bureaus and 38 selected head post offices including the three relevant head post offices mentioned above. The 15 Paise stamp was initially available only at five principal philatelic bureaus and three relevant head post offices.

India Post issued a first day cover priced 6 Paise. Several stamp dealers also issued first day covers. No informative folder was issued.

But Why Two First Days? Because In 1957 the independence was celebrated on two days on August 15 and 16 to mark the tenth anniversary of independence and the centennial of India's First War of Independence. And India Post thought it fit to have two first days for the first and only time.

And both the days, Thursday and Friday, were national and Post Office holidays in 1957.

This is not the end of the story and some other day we will add another bouquet of factoids to it.

Until next week, please enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

- M&SJ

Our thanks to the Contributors and Sources to this issue: Jaydev Nansey  
We invite your inputs, please email to [writeback@stampsfindia.com](mailto:writeback@stampsfindia.com)

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If you've found this newsletter useful, recommend it to a friend.
Better still, forward a copy of this issue. Also, please mention this newsletter when contacting other philatelists.

Report the philatelic activities in your area for publication here. We shall reimburse the costs incurred on images, philatelic items issued, publications, courier and other agreed charges.

Please send your queries in detail (images welcome) on all matters related to Philately and Postal History of India and Indian States. We will attempt to find an answer for you.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

Oct 1: S D Burman  
Oct 2: Gandhi, 4 stamps+ MS

New issues along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, at Rs 2 each, are put on sale on sale at nearly 1000 selected Post Offices including all Philatelic Bureaus and Philatelic Counters in India.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

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NEW STAMPS RELEASED

M Hamid Ansari the Vice President of India released a postage stamp to commemorate the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference being held in New Delhi on September 23, 2007.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) consists of the national, provincial, state and territorial Parliaments and Legislatures of the countries of the Commonwealth. Members of the CPA, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, share the Association's mission to promote knowledge and understanding about parliamentary democracy and respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms.

CPA was founded in 1911 as the Empire Parliamentary Association. Active CPA Branches now exist in 169 Parliaments, with a total membership of approximately 16,000 Parliamentarians.

The growth of CPA is a testimony of the resurgence of Parliamentary democracy. A multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious Association of Sovereign nations spread across all the continents, the CPA is a well knit international organization. It fosters belief in international cooperation being the way to remove causes of war, combating injustice and securing development among the peoples of the world.

Earlier the 37th Conference of the CPA was held in India in 1991.

Bharati Mirchandani designed the Stamps and the First Day Cover. Alka Sharma designed the pictorial first day postmark. Brochure containing write-up and technical data was issued on the occasion. The First Day Cover and the Brochure are priced at Rs 2 each. Security Printing Press, Hyderabad printed the stamps by Wet Offset in the quantity of 0.8 million each.

For an illustrated list of stamps in 2007, please visit

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/stamps/2007stamps.htm>

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NEW POSTAL STATIONERY

Following Meghdoot post cards with advertisement were recently released:

Rishikonda Beach Vishakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Gujarati  
NRE Scheme,  
Education for All Himachal Pradesh, Hindi  
Immunization, Hindi  
Marriage in Right Age, Hindi  
Safe Motherhood, Hindi & English  
Navratri - The Longest Dance Festival on the Planet, English  
Say No to Child Labor, Hindi & English

The grand total till date is now 452, with 176 added in 2007 alone.

The complete illustrated list of Meghdoot Post Card is available at:  
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/meghdoot.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Postcards in 2007, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007PC.htm>

For an illustrated list of all kinds of Envelopes in 2007, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007EN.htm>

For an illustrated list of Aerogramme & Inland Letter in 2007, visit  
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/2007ILC.htm>

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RECENT SPECIAL POSTMARKS & COVERS

Sep 21: Jamnagar, Electrical Branch of Indian Navy, 60 Years
Vice Admiral D S P Varma, Chief of Materials of Indian Navy released special cover with special postmark at INS Valsura along with Bahadur Singh, Postmaster General, Rajkot Region of India Post. The function was attended by serving and retired officers of Indian Navy's Electrical Branch, B R Mehta, Ashok Pandya and J Nansey of Nawanagar Philatelic Society, B Sarangi, Director of Postal Services and staff of Philatelic Bureau. Philatelic Bureau Rajkot maintained a stall at the Exhibition held as part of the celebrations.

Nawanagar Philatelic Society, Jamnagar also released a picture postcard on Indian Navy on Stamps. 250 numbered picture postcards were serviced at the event with the special postmark of Electrical Branch Diamond Jubilee.

For an illustrated list of Special Postmarks & Covers in 2007, visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/2007pm.htm>

For an illustrated list of Army Postal Service Issues in 2007, visit
<http://stampsofindia.com/lists/pmk/aps/2007aps.htm>

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AUCTION ACTION

David Feldman is holding their Autumn Stamp Auctions at Geneva, Switzerland on October 2-6, 2007. The Rarities of the World sale this

time includes several important exhibit or specialized collections offered intact.

India is represented with an Inverted Head, red Scinde Dawk, 1854 4 annas head & frame die 1 mint & used, and 1948 Gandhi Service corner marginal set. The highlight of the India section is the Highest Franking Recorded for a Classic India Item, India Used In Singapore, 1865 Large opened-out part wrapper from Singapore via Suez to Paris, franked with an incredible & extraordinary assembly of 1856-64 East India 4a black (234 stamps), 8a carmine (152 stamps) showing practically complete sheet, 2a yellow, 8p purple, making up a colossal 134 rupees, 10 annas & 8 pies rate, all cancelled numeral "B172" of Singapore, plus array of other markings.

Also noteworthy is a 1969 Gandhi Centenary Essays Collection includes seven unique hand-painted unadopted designs (each signed and hs by General Manager of India Security Press) together with a signed facsimile of designer C R Pakrashi winning design (without value) plus reproductions of other contest entries (and the other winner) and photographic prints of two Pakrashi designs together with his sketches showing design elements, etc. on three pages signed and dated by him (15.11.68) and explaining the design process of his winning entry.

The two exhibit collections of Cochin and Jammu & Kashmir of 215 and 165 pages respectively are

For more information please visit <http://www.davidfeldman.com>

For a list of auctions in India, please visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/auction.htm>

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RECENT & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sep 29-Oct 3: Surat, Mahatma Gandhi Stamps and Memorabilia Exhibition
Venue: Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium, Surat
Sales Stalls: Rs 11,000 Including accommodation & meals for two
Contact: Ramavtar Jain 0 93777 66365

Oct 2: Lucknow, Gandhi Stamps Exhibition
Venue: Lucknow GPO
Issues: 1 special cover
Contact: Pankaj Tyagi, Mobile 0 93352 41900

Oct 6-8: Ahmedabad, Gujarat State Philatelic Exhibition

Oct 13-15: Gwalior, Coins & Stamps Exhibition
Issues: 2 special covers,
Sales Stalls: Rs 2000/ Rs 2500
Contact: Neel Kamal Maheshwari, 0 94257 45455, 0 94444 50420

Oct 26-29: Jaipur, 12th Inter School Philatelic Exhibition Schoolpex
Venue: St Xavier's School
Issues: 2 special covers including 1 scented cover,
Sales Stalls: Rs 600, Also accommodation assistance
Contact: Rajesh Paharia, Mobile 9351716969

Oct 31-Nov 2: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh State Philatelic Exhibition

Nov 30-Dec 2: New Delhi, Coins & Banknotes

Dec 5-8: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Philatelic Exhibition
Venue: Kanakakunnu Palace

For a list of exhibitions in 2007, please visit
<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/events2007.htm>

MEETINGS

The schedule of meetings of the philatelic organizations in India is available at <http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/clubmeet.htm>

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STAMP QUIZZES by Anil Dhir, 224 pages, 2007 edition, contains over 1500 questions and answers. Comprehensive & detailed with quizzes on General Philately, India, Indian States, USA, Britain, Australia & New Zealand Must for all Philatelists & stamp clubs, Rs 300 post free in India. US\$20+ actual postage elsewhere, ANIL DHIR anildhir2k5@hotmail.com

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VIEWS & OPINIONS

READERS FORUM

<Dear Reader, Your feedback is important to us as it helps evolve the newsletter. Please send us have your thoughts and suggestions.>

DR REUBEN (BEN) A RAMKISSOON, Oak Brook, IL USA
Just a brief comment on Mr Kulkarni's observation in #306:
Supply and demand considerations do affect the value placed on a stamp. It is not an uncommon occurrence that a particular issue is sold out early, but as time stabilizes the market place, values become settled at a reasonable level.

The design of a stamp and the way it is correlated with essential text information (name of country, assigned value, commemoration subject, fonts chosen) and colors coordination are generally sketched in a much larger size, compared to the issued stamp. What appears grand in an 22 x 26 cm format is often too busy and crowded when compacted down to 4 x 2.5 cm size.

It is in this area that many Indian postage stamps and commemorative postmarks can be grouped. My plea is for effective designs and

execution, with simplicity in tasteful colors that bring the issue to life, draws in the viewer, and beckons acquisition.

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FEATURES & RESOURCES

Indian Laws Relevant to Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/laws.htm>

Report Cyber Crime & Internet Fraud related to Indian Philately

<http://www.stampsofindia.com/infobase/cybercrime.htm>  
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NEWSSCAN

<We invite you to contribute clippings on philatelic and postal matters, from other print and electronic publications, for inclusion here>

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ADMINISTRIVIA

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The Hub Site of Indian Philately

PRINCELY STATES REPORT <http://www.princelystates.com>

Journal of Indian States History, Philately & Numismatics

STAMPS ON INDIA <http://www.stampsonindia.com>

The site devoted to the stamps from all over the world on Indian topics

INDIAN POSTAL GUIDE 1869

The first issue of the official postal guide, reprinted by Stamps of India 2004, 236 pages, hardbound, enlarged from original octavo to A4 size, limited edition, Special price - Rs 2750, Credit cards & PayPal accepted, visit <http://www.stampsofindia.com/shop/bookshop.htm>
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