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Bimonthly

Stamp on Santh Bhima Bhoi !

It was on 16th March, 2007 when the Collector of Balangir Mr. R.Gopalan in his inaugural speech during the inauguration of the 2nd District level Philatelic Exhibition, BALANGIRPEX-07, at Balangir and after release of a special cover on the samadhi Pitha of Santh Bhima Bhoi, announced that Govt. of India will be moved for issue of a commemorative postage stamp on Santh Bhima Bhoi. Mr. Sadanand Agrawal, the managing Trustee of Bhima Bhoi Samadhipitha Trust, Khaliapali, Sonepur has delivered a heart touching speech on Bhima Bhoi by citing the famous stanzas of the poetry of Bhima Bhoi. In this connection Government of Orissa has also taken a decision to move the Govt. of India for release of a Postage stamp on Santh Bhima Bhoi. I along with some of the philatelists of Balangir visited the Samadhi Pitha at Khaliapali, Sonepur on 16.03.07 and witnessed the beautiful

monument, the photograph of which is shown below for perusal of our esteemed readers. The hundred years old hand written documents and writings on palm leaves are worth to be seen, and it is needed to preserve them in a scientific manner. Issuing a commemorative postage stamp on Santh Bhima Bhoi will be the best tribute to him. Although there is no photograph of Bhima Bhoi available, but the imaginary sketch available can be combined with this beautiful monument for designing a postage stamp. At last by remembering the famous stanza of Bhima Bhoi:

“Let my soul be condemned to Hell
But let the Universe be redeemed.”

we request the Postal authorities to take immediate steps for issue of a commemorative postage stamp on Santh Bhima Bhoi.

-A.K.Dash,
Editor



The *Samadhi Pitha* of Bhima Bhoi at Khaliapali, Sonepur, (inset-imaginary portrait of Bhima Bhoi)

(Photo & composition by A.K.Dash Secretary, EIPA)

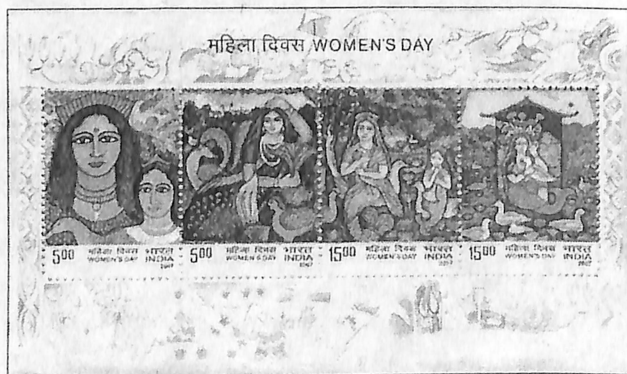
STAMP NEWS (INDIA)

WOMEN'S DAY



8th March is observed as International Women's Day the world over. This is a day to remember the historic and revolutionary role of women's movements including the role of women's movement in the freedom struggle of our country. The International Women's Day signifies the fact that securing global peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom require the active participation, equality and development of women and to also acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security.

Our Constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women. The Constitution is firmly grounded in the principles of liberty, fraternity, equality and justice. It contains a number of provisions for the empowerment of women. Women's right to equality and non-discrimination are defined as justiciable fundamental rights. The Constitution is explicit that affirmative action programmes for women are not incompatible with the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of sex. National Plans and policies have consistently reflected a vision of progress that is not narrowly confined to expanding incomes, but gives a central place to the achievement of human rights, freedoms and well-being for all. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is the first of its kind and sets into the private sphere of a household.



The postage stamps being released on the occasion of International Women's Day portray woman in her role as the nurturer and preserver.

Credits:

Text: Based on material provided by the proponent

Stamp & FDC: Sankha Samanta, based on the paintings provided by Ms. Jayasri Burman, a renowned artist

Cancellation: Alka Sharma

TECHNICAL DATA

Date of Issue: 8.3.2007

Denomination: 500, 500, 1500, 1500 p

Stamps Printed: 0.4 Million each

Miniature Sheet: 0.1 Million

Printing Process: Photogravure

Printer: India Security Press, Nasik

RAJ NARAIN



Raj Narain was a great freedom fighter and an eminent parliamentarian. He was born in 1917 in a village named Motikoat, Gangapur in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. After completing his post graduation and LLB, he joined Socialist Party and held many party positions. He was very close to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya who described him as "a person who has heart of a Lion and practices of Gandhi". Along with Dr. Lohiya, he was one of the strongest pillars of socialist movement in the country. He was the President of Student Congress during Quit India Movement in 1942. He led the movement in and around Varanasi district. Shri Raj Narain had a long and distinguished political career. He was a famous politician who as a candidate of Janata Party in 1977, defeated Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, in Lok Sabha election from Rai Bareli constituency. Shri Raj Narain was a man of masses. He strove hard for political freedom, economic justice, social equality and cultural advancement of the people and was therefore known as 'Lokbandhu' rather than 'Loknayak'.

He died on 31st December 1986.

Credits:

Text: Based on the material provided by Uttar Pradesh Circle

Stamp & FDC: Brahm Prakash

Cancellation: Nenu Gupta

TECHNICAL DATA

Date of Issue: 23.03.2007
Denomination: 500 p
Stamps Printed: 0.4 Million
Printing Process: Wet-Offset
Printer: Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

MEHBOOB KHAN



Born in Billimora in Gujarat, Mehboob Khan ran away from home to pursue his dreams in the film studios of Bombay. He started his career as a bit player with the Imperial Film Company, hidden inside a wooden vat for a scene in *Alibaba and Forty Thieves* (1927). A man of humble beginning and little formal education, the very first film directed by him, produced by Sagar Movietone, catapulted him to success. 'Manmohan', 'Watan', 'We Three', 'The Only Way' and 'Ek hi Raasta, under the same banner, consolidated his position as one of the leading directors of the day. Sagar Movietone gave way to National Studios under whose banner he made some remarkably significant films like 'Aurat', 'Bahen' and 'Roti'. 'Roti' was a blistering attack on capitalism and the lust for money, while 'Aurat' (1940) was the story of a resolute young woman who starts life full of hopes and dreams but ends up old and careworn, surviving flood, famine, starvation, and a wayward son whom she shoots to protect the honour of the village. A precursor to the more famous 'Mother India', many critics are of the opinion that this stark epic was much more authentic and true to life.

Mehboob Khan's crowning glory came with 'Mother India', a remake of 'Aurat' and the ultimate tribute to Indian womanhood. This epic saga of the sufferings of an Indian peasant woman, whose life is rooted in the soil, struck an instant chord in the hearts of millions. So tremendous was its success that the film has become a reference point, whose influence continues to be seen in Hindi movies even today. 'Mother India' also became the first Indian film to be nominated for an Oscar, in the Best Foreign Film category, losing out by a solitary vote at the 1958 Academy Awards.

Awarded the Padmashree for his significant contribution to the Hindi cinema, Mehboob Khan passed away on 28th May 1964, but continues to live on in the memory of cinema lovers through his extraordinary body of work.

Text: Based on material provided by the propenet
Stamp and FDC: Bharati Mirchandani
Cancellation: Alka Sharma

TECHNICAL DATA

Date of Issue: 30.03.2007
Denomination: 500 p
Stamps Printed: 0.4 Million
Printing Process: Wet-offset
Printer: Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

Dr. RM. ALAGAPPA CHETTIAR



Alagappa Chettiar, was born on April 6th 1909, in Kottaiyur, Sivaganga district. His primary education was at the SMS Vidyasala in Karaikudi.

At the age of 21, Chettiar became the first Indian trainee at the Chartered Bank in London. Soon thereafter he qualified for the Bar at Middle Temple, England and became a 'Bar-at-Law' and was cherished by the people of Chettinad. Adventurous in nature, he was awarded a pilot's certificate at Croydon, England. With honorary doctorate degrees conferred upon him by both the Madras and Annamalai Universities, his passion for excellence knew no bounds.

He launched his career by pioneering in textiles. His Empire consisted of rubber plantations in Malaya, tin mines in Burma, textile Mills in Kerala, Insurance companies in Calcutta, hotels in Bombay, theatres in Madras, a flourishing stock broking company and a private airline.

In 1947, following India's independence, he started a College of Technology in Madras. With able guidance and inspiration from Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, the then Vice Chancellor of Madras University, The Alagappa College of Technology was established and affiliated to the University of Madras, offering undergraduate programs in Chemical Engineering, Textile Engineering and Leather Technology. His subsequent generous donations led to the establishment of Alagappa Schools that offered primary and higher secondary education for children, The Alagappa Polytechnic, The Alagappa Engineering College, The Alagappa Arts College, The Alagappa Teacher's College, The Physical Education College, all of which formed the basis

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for the establishment of the Alagappa University in 1985 by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Chettiar, at the instance of Mahatma Gandhi also founded the "Thakkar Baba Vidyalaya" which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi himself. A township near Trichur called Alagappapuram, a Polytechnic and a Maternity Home at Trichur, the research department of Indigenous Medicine in Maharaja College, Ernakulam and Tamil Research Department of Trivandrum University stand testimony to his breadth of vision.

At the tender age of 48, he succumbed to his illness and passed away on April 5th, 1957.

Credits:

Text: Based on material provided by the proponent.

Stamp and FDC: Brahm Prakash

Cancellation: Alka Sharma

TECHNICAL DATA

Date of Issue: 06.04.07

Denomination: 500 p

Stamps Printed: 0.4 Million

Printing Process: Photogravure

Printer: India Security Press, Nasik

PHILATELIC EXHIBITIONS WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP ISRAEL 2008

The **WORLD STAMP CHAMPIONSHIP ISRAEL 2008** under F.I.P patronage will be held in Tel Aviv, from Wednesday, May 14 through Wednesday, May 21, 2008. This will be organized by the Israel Philatelic Federation in cooperation with the Israel Post Ltd. and its Philatelic Service. Over 70 countries will be present with a variety of 2,500 exhibition frames of the world's finest philatelic collections. 12 philatelic competition classes will be included: World Stamp Championship, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematical Philately, Maximaphilia, Revenue, Youth, Single Frame and Literature. The **World Stamp Championship**, held for the second time only, will bring the best exhibits in the world to WSC ISRAEL 2008. Sh. Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as the National Commissioner for

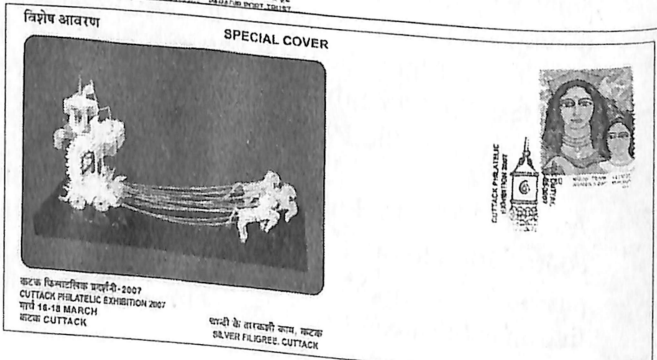
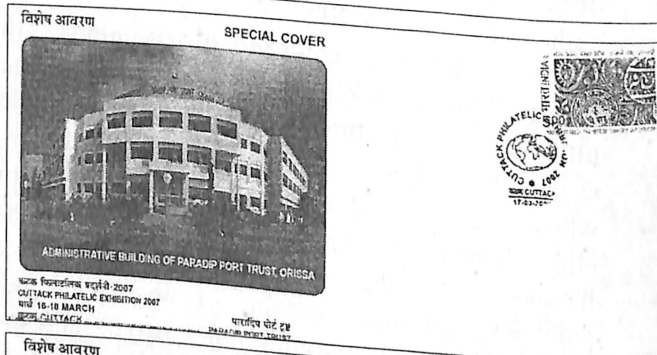
India. For detailed information he may be contacted in the following address Ajay Kumar Mittal, D-57 South Extension Part-1, New Delhi 110049, India Tel: 91-11-24643137/24624018, Fax:91-11-24648857, e-mail 'ajay@kshitiz.com'. Entry fee of US\$50 per frame except Youth Class.

APPEX-2007

The state level Philatelic Exhibition of the Andhra Pradesh State will be held at Vishakhapatnam from 18-20, October, 2007.

CUTTACK PHILATELIC EXHIBITION-2007

The 1st District level philatelic exhibition of the undivided Cuttack district was held at Cuttack GPO premises from 16-18, March, 2007 organised by the Cuttack Postal Division. Exhibits of 21 exhibitors in 50 frames were displayed during the 3 days exhibition. Shri Bijoy Kumar Sinha of EIPA was appointed as Jury to evaluate the exhibits displayed in the exhibition. The exhibition was inaugurated by Smt. Indira Krishna Kumar, the Chief Post Master General, Orissa. Three special covers were





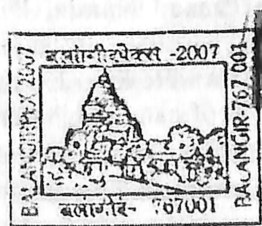
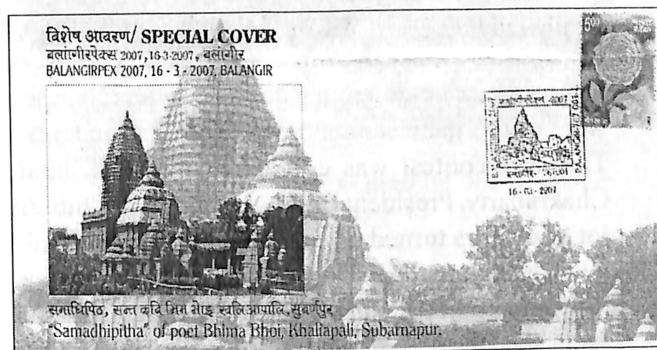
released during the exhibition. The covers were released on famous 'Baliyatra', Paradip Port Trust and the 'Silver Filigree' work of Cuttack. During the exhibition stamp design contest and quiz contest were also organised by the postal department in Junior and Senior group. The quiz contest was conducted by Mr. Anil Kumar Dhir a senior philatelist of EIPA assisted by Sh Bipin Bihari Mohanty, Jadunath Kanungo and Kasinath Sahoo. Mr. Pdma Lochan Bhol, Sr. Supdt. of Posts, RMS was over all charge of the exhibition. At the end of the exhibition 7 Gold medals, 7 Silver medals and 7 Bronze Medals were awarded by the Jury. Dr. L.N.Mishra, Vice Chancellor of Utkal University was the chief speaker in the closing ceremony at end of exhibition presided over by Smt. Indira Krishna Kumar, CPMG, Orissa, Bhubaneswar. Mr. A.N.Nanda, PMG, Berhampur & Sambalpur, Mr.Lalitendu Pradhan, DPS, Berhampur & Mr. Santosh Kumar Kamila, DPS, Sambalpur were other dignitaries in the dias. During the exhibition. Mr.Puspak Pati, Mr. Pranay Kar and Mr.Amit Kumar Tripathy all of Secondary Board High School stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Senior Group Stamp Design Competition. Where as Kumari. Swapna Nivedita, DAV Public School, Kumari Ishika Barik, St. Joseph's Girls' High School and Mr. Biswa Pradeep Shukla, DAV Public School stood 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Junior Group Stamp Design Competition. Similarly in the Senior Group Quiz contest Mr. Ansuman Diwedy and Mr. Puspak Pati both of Secondary Board School stood first, Mr.Abhas Kumar Samal, Police High School and Mr. Debasis Tripathy, SCB Medical Public School stood second and Mr. Sthita Pragnya Nayak and Anurag Mishra of DAV Public School stood third position. In the Junior Group Quiz contest Mr. Nishant Dash and Mr. Rajat Rupam of Cambridge School stood first, Mr. Surya Prasad Lenka, Secondary Board High School and Mr. Sayed Faran Muzamir, Police Line UP School stood Second and Kumari. Rajashree Behera, Reserve Police line School and Kumari Madhumita Mahali, St. Joseph's Girls' High School stood third Position.

The over all impression of the exhibition was excellent. Several people of the silver City visited the exhibition and took much interest as this exhibition is held for the first time in Cuttack.

BALANGIRPEX-07

The second district level philatelic Exhibition of Balangir district was held at 17-18, March 2007 organised by the Bolangir Postal Division in active support of the Bolagir Philatelic Club. The exhibition was inaugurated by Sh. Santosh Kumar Kamila, DPS, Sambalpur. Sh. R. Gopalan, IAS, Collector, Bolangir was the Guest of honour, Sh. Sadananda

Agarwal, Managing Trustee, Bhima Bhoi Samadhi Pitha, Khaliapali was the chief speaker during the inaugural function presided over by Sh. B.D. Pradhan, SPOs, Bolangir. Shri Ajit Kumar Dash, Secretary EIPA was appointed as Jury for the exhibition to evaluate the exhibits displayed during the exhibition. 15 exhibitors have displayed their exhibits in 35 frames in the competitive group. Besides 2 exhibits in 5 frames were displayed in invitee group. Two special covers were released during the exhibition. One cover on "Bhima Bhoi Samadhi Pith, Khaliapali" and

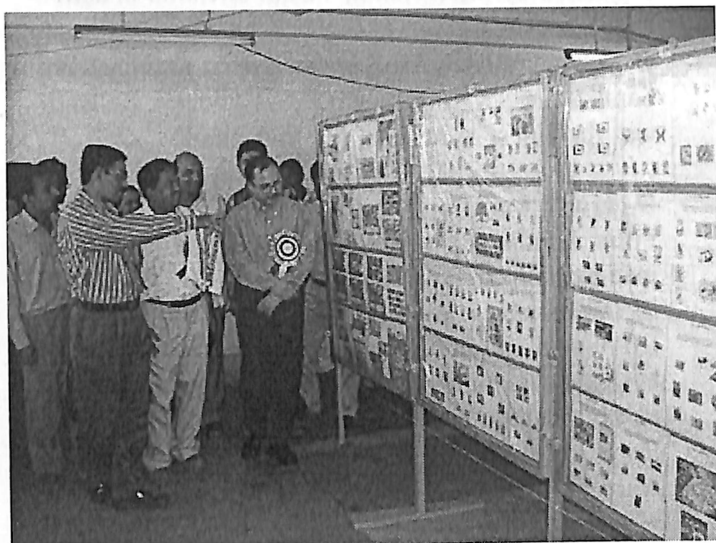


16-03-2007



17-03-2007

another cover on "*Mother Teresa*" were released. 6 Silver medals, 4 Bronze medals and one Diploma were awarded to the deserving competitors. Sh. Kamal Chakrabarty in the Senior group and Sh. Sidharth Panigrahi in the Youth group were awarded the best exhibit awards for their exhibits "Apostle of love" and "Medicines- The Healing Agent" respectively. A special Silver medal was also



awarded by the Eastern India Philatelists Association to the Best Exhibit in the Senior group, which was awarded to Mr. Kamal Chakrabarty. During the exhibition stamp design and quiz contests were also organised amongst the school students. The quiz contest was conducted by Sh. Kamal Chakrabarty, President Bolangir Philatelic Club. A lot of visitors turned up to the exhibition and took much interest in them. During the inaugural function it was unanimously proposed to move the Govt. of India through the Collector, Bolangir to release a postage stamp on *Santh Bhima Bhoi*. Mr. Sadananda Agarwal, the Managing Trustee, Bhima Bhoi Samadhi Pitha, Kaliapali has also assured to provide necessary information for this purpose. The Guests have also visited Kahalipali, Sonepur the Samadhi pitha of *Santh Bhima Bhoi*, about 40 km. from Bolangir. During the closing ceremony Mr. Santosh Kumar Kamila, DPS, Sambalpur was the Chief Guest, Sh. H.S. Upadhyay, IFS, Conservator (KL), Bolangir Division was the Guest of Honour and Dr. Siba Prasad Nanda, PG department of History, Rajendra College, Bolangir was the Chief Speaker. Medals were awarded by the chief Guest to the philatelist of stamp exhibition and Prizes were also distributed to the winners of stamp design contest and quiz contest. Free stamp packets and philatelic News letters were also

distributed by the Secretary, Eastern India Philatelists' association to all the award winners and philatelists.

News letter released

The Gujarat Philatelic Association (GPA) has issued their monthly bulletins for the month of March, 2007. This issue contains an informative article on 'Autographs of Celebrities in the design of Postal Stamps, Folders, Cancellations, First Day Covers & Special Cover' written by Mr. Praful Thakkar, IAS (Retd.). One can go through the website- 'WWW.indianautographs.com' to know details of the collection.

PHILATELY WORKSHOP

Sundargarh

A Philately workshop was organised by the Department of Posts at the Govt High School, Sundargarh on 01-03-07. The work shop was conducted by the philatelists Mr. Santanu Panigrahi and Mr. Sudhansu Choudhury. About 40 students of different school participated the workshop and learnt different aspects of Philately.

OTHER NEWS

Keonjhar Philatelic Association

The Keonjhar Philatelic Association has become another Registered Philatelic Society of Orissa. The Association has been registered under the Society Registration Act at Keonjhar vide Regn. No. KJR-4802-36 of 2006-07 dt. 13.03.2007. The following are the new office bearers of the Association.

Sh. Akshaya Kumar Nayak-	President,
Sh. Niladri Bihari Mishra-	Vice President,
Dr. Chandra Sekhar Basak-	Secretary-
	cum-Treasurer,
Dr. Abdul Rehaman-	Jt. Secretary

Besides, Suresh Kumar Sahoo, Sujit Kumar Patnaik, Sasmita Nayak, Abhijit Patnaik, Kalyani Basak, Ajita Singh and Elora Priyadarshini are the members of the managing Committee.

COLLECTOR PACKS AVAILABLE

The annual collector Packs of Indian stamps for the year 2005 and 2006 as well as annual pack of the First Day Covers with Brochures for 2004, 2005, and 2006 are now available in the Philatelic Bureaux. The Price of pack of stamps is Rs 350 and Rs 450 for 2005 and 2006 respectively. The price of pack

of FDC is Rs 540, Rs 450, and Rs 590 for 2004, 2005, and 2006 respectively.

POSTMEN TO COLLECT FINE FOR TRAFFIC POLICE

Traffic Police in Delhi has a tie-up with India Post for collection of road taxes and the fine for traffic violations. It will facilitate paying to the postmen at one's doorstep instead of going to the local traffic court. Delhi Traffic Police mails 15000 notices to violators of traffic offences everyday.

ROCKET MAIL

Rocket mail is the delivery of mail by rocket or missile. The rocket would land by deploying an internal parachute upon arrival. It has been attempted by various organisations in many different countries, with varying levels of success. It has never been seen as being a viable option for delivering mail, due to the cost of the schemes and numerous failures. The collection of philatelic material used for (and depicting) rocket mail is a specialist branch of aerophilately known as astrophilately.

In the 1930s, German **Gerhard Zucker** experimented with powder rockets similar to fireworks. Between 1931 and 1933, he travelled throughout Germany displaying his rocket and claiming that it could be used to deliver mail. After moving to the United Kingdom, Zucker attempted to convince the General Post Office that postal delivery by rocket was viable. On 31 July 1934 a rocket was launched over a 1600-metre flight path between the Hebridean islands of Harris and Scarp in Scotland. Around 1.07 m long with a diameter of 18 cm, the fuselage was packed with 1,200 envelopes. Unfortunately for Zucker, the rocket exploded and destroyed most of its cargo.

Stephen Smith, a Secretary of the Indian Airmail Society, combined his work with his interest in rocketry. His first launch was on 30 September 1934, and he experimented with 270 more by 4 December 1944. 80 of these contained mail, and his achievements include the first successful rocket mail sent over a river and the first rocket to carry a parcel. The Oriental Fireworks Company supplied Smith with 16 rockets between 23 March 1935 and 29 June 1935. Between them, these "Silver Jubilee" flights carried over a thousand covers. In 1992 the Indian government issued a stamp to celebrate the centenary of Smith's birth, calling him "the originator of rocket mail in India".

The first successful delivery of mail by a rocket in the United States was made on 23 February 1936, when two rockets that were launched from the New Jersey shore of Greenwood Lake landed on the New York shore, some 300 metres away. In 1959 the U.S. Navy submarine USS *Barbero* assisted the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the current United States Postal Service (USPS) in its search for faster, more efficient forms of mail transportation with the first and only delivery of "Missile Mail". Shortly before noon on 8 June 1959, *Barbero* fired a Regulus cruise missile — its nuclear warhead having earlier been replaced by two official Post Office Department mail containers — at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Mayport, Florida. Twenty-two minutes later, the missile struck its target.

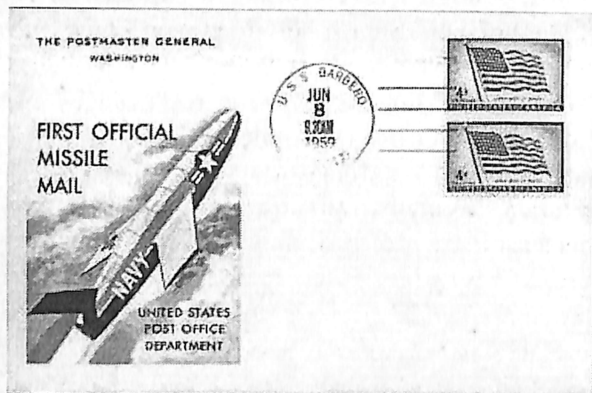


A Regulus cruise missile was used for one attempt to deliver mail.

The USPS had officially established a branch post office on *Barbero* and delivered some 3000 pieces of mail to it before *Barbero* left Norfolk, Virginia. The mail consisted entirely of commemorative postal covers addressed to President of the United States Dwight Eisenhower, other government officials, the Postmasters General of all members of the Universal Postal Union, and so on. They contained letters from United States Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield. Their postage (four cents domestic, eight cents international) had been cancelled "USS *Barbero* Jun 8 9.30am 1959" before the boat put to sea. In Mayport, the Regulus was opened and the mail forwarded to the post office in Jacksonville, Florida, for further sorting and routing.

Upon witnessing the missile's landing, Summerfield stated, "This peacetime employment of a guided missile for the important and practical purpose of

carrying mail, is the first known official use of missiles by any Post Office Department of any nation." Summerfield proclaimed the event to be "of historic significance to the peoples of the entire world", and predicted that "before man reaches the moon, mail will be delivered within hours from New York to California, to Britain, to India or Australia by guided missiles. We stand on the threshold of rocket mail."



USS Barbero first day commemorative cover. The return address is the Postmaster General.

Since the end of the Cold War, Russia has made a few experimental rocket mail launches from nuclear submarines in the Sea of Okhotsk toward western Russia, using now-surplus missiles. Some think that rocket mail, or at least ultra-elite business package delivery, may become commercially viable with the development of fully reusable launch systems, particularly single-stage to orbit vehicles. Such systems would allow package delivery anywhere in the world in 30-45 minutes. This idea has been forwarded by aerospace engineer Robert Zubrin of Mars Society fame, and was the original business plan behind Pioneer Rocketplane (now Rocketplane Limited, Inc.), which he co-founded. Zubrin has since left the company, which is now focused on pursuing a somewhat more conventional space tourism strategy. The potential of package delivery with reusable launch vehicles is discussed in Zubrin's book *Entering Space*. On 3 December 2005, XCOR Aerospace flew its EZ-Rocket (a rocket powered Long-EZ aircraft the company built as a demonstrator for its reusable rocket engines) from Mojave, California to California City, California, both in Kern County. Test pilot Dick Rutan made the flight which lasted about 9 minutes and carried US mail from the post office in Mojave to addresses in California City onboard. This was the first time that a manned, rocket powered aircraft was used to carry US Mail.

PENNY BLACK

The **Penny Black** was the world's first official adhesive postage stamp, issued in the city of Bath by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on May 1, 1840, for use from May 6.



The idea of an adhesive stamp to indicate prepayment of postage was part of Rowland Hill's 1837 proposal to reform the British postal system. A companion idea which Hill disclosed on February 13, 1837 at a government inquiry was that of a separate sheet which folded to form an enclosure or envelope for carrying letters. At that time postage was charged by the sheet and distance involved. Hill noted that the stamp idea might obviate the envelope.

Hill was given a two-year contract to run the new system, and he and Henry Cole subsequently ran a competition to identify the best way to prepay letters. None of the 2600 entries were good enough, so in the end Hill launched the service in 1840 with an envelope bearing a reproduction of a design created by the artist William Mulready and a stamp bearing an reproduction of the profile of the reigning British monarch, Queen Victoria. There are also references on the record to covers bearing the Mulready design. To this day, all British stamps bear a profile of the reigning monarch somewhere on the design, and are the only nationality of stamp that do not name their country of origin.

In 1839, the British Treasury had announced a competition to design the new stamps, but none of the submissions were considered suitable, and the Treasury chose instead to use a profile of Victoria. The head was engraved by Charles and Fredrick Heath based on a sketch provided by Henry Cole. Cole's sketch was in turn based on the head by William Wyon, that had been done for a medal used to commemorate the visit of Queen Victoria to the

City of London in the year she ascended the throne, 1837. The word "POSTAGE" appeared at the top of the stamp, to denote its intended use and "ONE PENNY" at the bottom, indicating the amount that had been pre-paid for the transmission of the letter to which it was affixed. The background consisted of finely engraved engine turnings. In addition, the two upper corners contained star like designs and the lower corners contained letters designating the position of each stamp in the sheet, "A A", "A B", and so forth. As the name suggests, the stamp was printed all in black. The stamps were printed by Perkins Bacon.

Although May 6 was the official first date when the labels were available for the pre-payment of postage, there are known covers postmarked May 2, due to postmasters selling the stamps from 1 May. Stamps used on letters prior to 6 May should have been treated as un-paid and charged double the rate on delivery. A single example is also known on cover dated 1 May 1840.

The Penny Black was in use for only a little over a year; in a manner familiar to technologists of the twentieth century, usage experience showed that a red cancellation on a black stamp was rather hard to see, as well as the fact that the red cancellation could be cleaned from the stamps allowing its re-use and thus depriving the Post Office of revenue. In 1841 the Treasury switched to the Penny Red and cancelled it with black ink. The black ink which was much more effective as a cancellation was also harder to remove. The re-use of stamps by the un-cancelled portions of two stamps to form an unused whole impression continued and in 1864 the stars in the top corners were replaced by the check letters, as they appeared in the lower corners, but in reverse order.

The Penny Black was printed from 11 plates, however as plate 1 was completely overhauled due to excessive wear, it is generally considered as two separate plates, 1a and 1b. When the printings in red were made the existing plates used for some of the black stamps were used as well as new plates purely for the red printings. (See information on Penny black printing plates)

An original printing press for the Penny Black is on display to the public at the British Library in London.

The Penny Black is readily available, but because of its significance is in great demand by collectors and therefore not cheap; in 2000 a used copy cost about US\$200 (around £110), and an unused copy about US\$3,000 (around £1,600). (By contrast, a used penny red was \$3 (£1.50).)

In addition to the general issue of the Penny Black postage stamps, a similar stamp was produced which had the letters V and R in the top corners replacing the stars. The intention of this issue was for use on official mail. Following the acceptance by the general public of the postage stamps and the ridicule of the Mulready letter sheets, which were produced at the same time, vast supplies of the latter were given to government departments, such as the tax office, for official use. As such the idea of an official stamp was abandoned. A few examples exist postally used which probably originate from the Post Office circulars which were sent out as notification of the new stamps which were being brought into use. Most of the cancelled examples are from trials which were made for cancellation types, inks and experiments with their removal which led to the change from black to red stamps and vice versa for the cancellations.

The VR official is stated as being made from the original master die, however, this can not be the case as this still exists and is housed in the National Postal Museum in London. It is believed that the master for this stamp was produced from the transfer roller used for the production of plate 1 with the stars removed from the top corners as some impressions show traces of these original stars.

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

May 02: Department of Posts, Govt. of India is going to issue 6 stamps and one miniature sheet along with the First Day Cover and the information sheet, on Lord Buddha to commemorate 2050th Anniversary of Mahaparinirvana. The stamps are Rs.5 each and the FDC 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.

The monthly meeting of EIPA is held on every third Sunday at plot No. A/117, Press Colony, Kharavela Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751001 from 5.30 PM to 7.30 PM.

OUR NEW MEMBERS

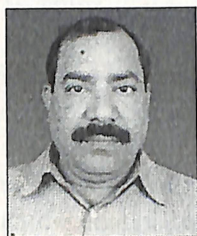
The following new life members joined to our EIPA family during March-April, 2007.



Mr. H.B. Ojha,
At- Lavanya, Kunjakanta,
Behind Block Office,
Dhenkanal- 759001
Ph. 06762-226602
Mobile-9437159593

Membership No. LO-01

Philatelic Interest: *General and Nature Care*



Niranjan Lal Jain,
Mahavir Para,
Infront of B.C.C. Bank Ltd.,
Bhawanipatna-766001
Kalahandi
Ph.06670-230552

Membership No. LJ-03

Philatelic Interest: *Post Independence
Indian Stamps, Postal Stationery & general*



Ramesh Kumar Agrawal,
Jagadamba Medical Store,
Daily Market,
Bhawanipatna-766001
Kalahandi
Ph. 06670-2324130
Mobile-09437155006

Membership No. LA-06

Philatelic Interest: *Post Independence
Indian Stamps, Postal Stationery & Whole
world.*

Our readers are requested to give their comments, suggestions regularly to the Editor so as to improve the quality of this bulletin and also to promote philately. The views and comments will be published in the 'Reader's Desk' column of this bulletin. They are also requested to contribute any article or information on philately so that it can help the other philatelists to share their knowledge. They should send their articles in both hard copy as well as in soft copy by floppy or CD to the editor or may e-mail to any of the following email IDs "eipaorissa@yahoo.co.in" or "akdash2000@yahoo.com" so that it will be easier to edit and publish them in this bulletin.

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Edited by **Mr. Ajit Kumar Dash**, D-13/6, Rental Colony, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar-751015, Orissa.
Assisted by **Mr. Chitta Ranjan Das**, Plot No.273/632, Paika Nagar, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar-751003.

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