POSTAGE STAMPS AND DIGITAL PHILATELY OF INDIA

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ABSTRACT

'Postage stamps', basically as a token for payment of postal taxes, are now being recognized as an information source and historical document in recording national achievements that visually convey four core elements: denomination, country name, graphical design, and the textual element. They are a valuable means of communication easily available anywhere to anybody. Realizing them as source of extra revenue, commemorative stamps are made available over time. Postage Stamps as an information, History of Indian Stamps, Highlights what are the Indian States? Conventional States (1885-1949), Definitional analysis, wave changed the hobby of stamp collection to Philately, while Indian stamp developments accelerated the hobby further to Virtual Philately.

Key words: Postage Stamps; Philately; WADP Numbering System

Cite this Article: Bawaskar Sangeeta Shrikrushna, Vaishali Khaparde, Postage Stamps and Digital Philately of India, *International Journal of Library & Information Science*, 8(3), 2019, pp. 7-15.

<http://iaeme.com/Home/issue/IJLIS?Volume=8&Issue=3>

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a survey of the postage stamps and postal history of India. Indian postal systems for efficient military and governmental communications had developed long before the arrival of Europeans. When the Portuguese, Dutch, French, Danish and British displaced the Mughals, their postal systems existed long side those of many somewhat independent states. The British East India Company gradually displaced other powers and brought into existence a British administrative system over most of India, with a need to establish and maintain both official and commercial mail systems. (Para 1)

India has a long and varied postal history and has produced a large number of postage stamps. These have been produced by a variety of techniques including line

engraving, typography, lithography, photogravure and web-offset. Stamps have been produced both for postage and for service or revenue. Definitive and commemoratives have been issued. Stamps have been produced both as unperforated sheets, perforated and miniature sheets. The stamps have been produced in a number of shapes the ScindeDawk being rounded and some, like the stamp on the Bombay Sappers being triangular. Recently the 2009 stamp on Louis Braille had braille imprinting on it in addition. Many cases of overprinting exist for converting the use of domestic postage stamps to service to earmark stamps sold by field post offices attached with international control commissions and other reasons.(Para 1)

The Indian Post runs philatelic bureaus, operates deposit based philatelic services, a philatelic magazine and also publishes lists of stamps from time to time (Hirwade and Nawlakhe, 2013).

Definitional Terms

Postage Stamps as an information

A postage stamp is a small piece of paper that is purchased and displayed on an item of mail as evidence of payment of postage. Typically, stamps are printed on special custom-made paper, show a national designation and a denomination (value) on the front, and have an adhesive gum on the back or are self-adhesive. Postage stamps are purchased from a postal administration (post office) or other authorized vendor, and are used to pay for the costs involved in moving mail, as well as other business necessities such as insurance and registration. They are sometimes a source of net profit to the issuing agency, especially when sold to collectors who will not actually use them for postage.

Philately

Philately is the study of stamps and postal history and other related items. It also refers to the collection, appreciation and research activities on stamps and other philatelic products. Philately involves more than just stamp collecting, which does not necessarily involve the study of stamps. It is possible to be a philatelist without owning any stamps. For instance, the stamps being studied may be very rare, or reside only in museums (para 1)

World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP)

The WADP Numbering System (WNS) is a project referencing postal stamps issued in the world since 1 January 2002. It is monitored by the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) and the Universal Postal Union. Its inventory is made possible by the declarations of the postal administrations participating to the project. (Para 1)

Developed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP), the WADP Numbering System (WNS) was introduced on 1 January 2002 with the aim of creating a database of all authentic postage stamps issued by UPU member countries and territories on or after that date. (Para 1)

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Born in Coventry, Connecticut, in 1755 and educated at Yale University in New Haven, Nathan Hale was a captain in the Continental Army during the Revolution. In 1776, he volunteered for an intelligence-gathering mission, but was captured by the British. He is best remembered for his speech before being hanged, in which he reportedly said, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Long considered an American hero, Hale was officially designated as the State Hero of Connecticut in 1985. He was pictured on ½ cent

stamps in 1922 and 1929, and commemorated on a 9cent Patriot postal card in 1977 (Hale N,1977).

If you have not made a trip to Washington, D.C. lately, it might be good to schedule one in order to visit the Smithsonian National Postal Museum where you can view the National Philatelic Collection. But if you're one of those who may not know about the museum or the National Collection, a new book will help (Parker, E. L., 2015).

Belk (1995) refers to collecting as an activity that involves passion, but which can clearly border on the obsessive. Satchell and Auld (2009) draw the distinction between the demand for stamps as an alternative financial asset, and demand driven by the intrinsic pleasures of ownership. While pecuniary benefits may not always be the primary motive for acquiring collectibles such as art, books, wine, coins, or stamps, "a substantial proportion of collectors also hope for financial gains" (Burton and Jacobsen, 1999). (Elroy, D. And Spaenjers C. 2006)

3. OBJECTIVES

- To study Year wise Indian stamps registered in WNS database.
- To study Country wise Indian stamp registered in WNS database.
- To study Indian Stamp issuing country.
- To study top ten countries of Indian Stamp contributing in WNS database.
- To study Subject Wise Indian stamp registered in WNS Database.
- To study Month wise Indian stamp registered in WNS database.

4. RESEARCH METHOD

This study focuses on the current status based on the online information retrieved freely. For the present study, a 'descriptive type of research methodology is used, with a 'survey' as the research technique. A survey of existing and accessible WNS website.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1 Year wise Indian stamps Registered in WNS Database

Year	Number of stamps registered in WNS database	Percentage
2002	10	5.8
2003	25	14.5
2004	8	4.6
2005	19	11.0
2006	11	6.4
2007	29	16.8
2008	14	8.1
2009	15	8.7
2010	7	4.0
2011	13	7.5
2012	7	4.0
2013	6	3.5
2014	2	1.2
2015	3	1.7
2016	2	1.2
2017	2	1.2
Total	173	100

Table no.1 represent the year wise registered stamps in the WNS database for the sixteenth year period of (2002-2016).It showed the maximum 29 (16.8%), that number of stamps in the year (2007).by 25 (14.5%)that number of stamps in the year (2003),by 19 (11.0%),stamps in the year(2005). that number of stamp in the year (2009), by15 (8.7%), by 14 (8.1), that number of stamps in the year (2010), by 13(7.5%). that number of stamps in the year (2011), 11(6.4%) that number of stamps in the year (2006) , 10(5.8%)that number of stamp in the year (2002)8 (4.6),7 (4.0%) that number of stamps in the year (2012), 6 (3.5%) that number of stamp in the year (2013), 7 by 8 (4.6)with that number of stamps in the year 2010, the total registered stamp 173 at the while more than Year had minimum of 1.2% (2)

Table 2 Country wise Indian stamp Registered in WNS database

Sr. No.	Stamp Issuing country	Number of stamps registered in WNS database
01	India	123
02	Japan	10
03	Cyprus	4
04	France	4
05	Ethiopia	3
06	Korea Republic	3
07	Peru	3
08	British Indian Ocean Territories	2
09	China (People's Rep)	2
10	Iran	2
11	Israel	2
12	Malasia	2
13	Myanmar	2
14	Portugal	2
15	United Nations – Geneva	2
16	Barbad	1
17	French Southern and Antarctic Territories	1
18	Malaysia	1
19	Mozambique	1
20	New Zealand	1
21	Seychelles	1
22	United Nations – New York	1
	Total	173

Table no. 2 with a contribution of 22 countries is tabulated in alphabetical listing along with WNS code for the country. “India 123, Japan 10,” were each leading with India stamps, and “Cyprus, France” with 4 stamps. “Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina-BH Post, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Ethiopia, Korea republic, Peru” had each 3 India stamps, and There are 8 countries had each two stamps, and 2 countries had issuing each single stamp.

Table 3 Indian Stamp issuing country

Sr. No.	Stamp issuing authority	Frequency
1	Barbados Postal Service	126
2	British Indian Ocean Territory Administration	10
3	Correios de Moçambique EP	4
4	CTT Correios de Portugal SA	4
5	Department of Postal Services	3
6	Ethiopian Postal Service	3
7	Israel Post Ltd	3
8	Korea Post	2
9	LA POSTE	2
10	Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications	2
11	New Zealand Post	2
12	POS Malaysia	2
13	Post Company of Islamic Republic of Iran	2
14	Postal Administration of Japan	2
15	Postal Services Division of Seychelles	1
16	Postes et Télécommunications Territoire des Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises	1
17	Servicio Postal Mexicano	1
18	Servicios Postales del Peru SA	1
19	State Post Bureau China National Philatelic Corporation	1
20	United Nations Postal Administration	1

Table no. 3 with an in alphabetical listing along contribution of 20 Stamp issuing authority is tabulated in alphabetical listing for the “administration Nacional de Barbados” with 126 India stamps, “British Post” with 10 stamps, “Correios, Portugal Post, 4stamp, Department of Postal Services, Ethiopian post, Israel Post, each 3, 7countries had each two stamps, and 6 countries had issuing each single stamp.

Table 4 Top ten countries of Indian stamp contributing in WNS database

Sr. No	Country	No. of Stamp register in WNS Database	Percentage
1	India	123	75.93
2	Japan	10	6.17
3	France	4	2.47
4	Cyprus	4	2.47
5	Ethiopia	3	1.85
6	Korea Republic	3	1.85
7	Peru	3	1.85
8	Iran	2	1.23
9	Israel	2	1.23
10	Malaysia	2	1.23

Figure 1 Top ten countries of Indian stamp contributing in WNS database

Table no. 4 & figure no. 3 it showed that the “India 123 and Japan 10” France and Cyprus were each leading with 4 stamps, while “Ethiopia, Korea Republic, Peru” with 3 stamps. All top ten countries started their registration in 2002. Surprisingly, “Japan” as the second rank holder with France and Cyprus” came in the third and fourth rank holder with 4 digital stamps Ethiopia, Korea Republic, Peru” with Fifth, Sixth, And Seventh rank With Iran, Israel, Malaysia, Eight, Nine, and Top ten rank ,2 for each.

Table 5 Subject-Wise of Indian Stamp Registered in WNS Database

Sr. No.	Type of commemoration	Number of Subject
1	India - Cyprus Joint Issue - Folk dances	4
2	India - Mongolia Joint Issue	4
3	Joint Issue - Cyprus - India	4
4	60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and India	3
5	Endangered Birds of India - Nilgiri Laughingthrush	3
6	150 Years of India Post	2
7	2nd Africa-India Forum Summit 2011	2
8	30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and the Republic of Korea - 'JantarMantar' at Jaipur	2
9	60th Anniversary of the Announcement of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence by Myanmar, China and India	2
10	Archaeological Survey of India	2
11	Architectural Heritage of India - Arasavalli, Srikakulam	2
12	Endangered Birds of India - Greater Adjutant Stork	2
13	Endangered Birds of India - Lesser Florican	2
14	Endangered Birds of India - Manipur Bush Quail	2
15	Festival of Lights - 20 Years of Diplomatic Relations - Israel - India Joint Issue	2
16	India Israel Joint Issue	2
17	India-Iran - Joint issue (Kabir& Hafiz)	2
18	Joint Issue China and India - White Horse Temple and Mahabodhi Temple	2
19	Joint Issue Portugal-India	2
20	Joint Issue with India - Traditional Costumes	2
21	National Parks of India - Bandhavgarh National Park	2
22	More than 1x123	123
Total		173

The Table no.5 with an in alphabetical listing along Contribution of 74 India commemoration on stamp is tabulated in alphabetical listing for the “India - Cyprus Joint Issue - Folk dances, India - Mongolia Joint Issue, Joint Issue - Cyprus - India” with 4 India stamps, “60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and India, Endangered Birds of India - Nilgiri Laughingthrush With 3 stamps, And 15, Countries had each two stamps and 122, countries had issuing each single stamp.

Table 6 Month wise Indian stamp registered in WNS database

Sr. No.	Month	Frequency	Percentage
1	January	4	2.31
2	February	19	10.98
3	March	10	5.78
4	April	25	14.45
5	May	21	12.14
6	June	5	2.89
7	July	5	2.89
8	August	10	5.78
9	September	5	2.89
10	October	26	15.03
11	November	27	15.61
12	December	16	9.25
Total		173	100

Figure 2 Month wise stamp registration of stamp in WNS database

Table no.1 & figure no. 4 represents the month wise registered India stamps in the WNS database for thirteen months (Jan – Dec). It showed that the maximum 27(15.61%) of India stamps in the month of November, 26 (15.3%) India stamps in the month of October, 25(14.45%) India stamps in the month of April, 21(12.14%) India stamps in the month of May, 19(10.98%) India stamps in the month of February, March and August in India stamps in the month of 10(10.5%), followed by January July and June, respectively. And the minimum 4(2.31%) and 5 (2.89%) of India stamps

6. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Postage Stamps that were introduced as a token for payment of postal taxes, as a historical document can visually and potentially record the national history due to their constituent core elements like denomination, country name, graphical design, and the textual element. They carry both mail and message; while working like an ambassador, they represent the country through the people, places and history depicted on them. The large number of commemorative stamps issued every year worldwide is because of their capability that authorities could disseminate message

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