



THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

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India's Fight for Independence by Dr. Mike Francis

In 1943, Nazi Germany printed a set of 10 stamps to help fund the Indian National Army headed by its founder Subhas Chandra Bose. The stamps are inscribed 'AZ'AD HIND meaning Free Hindustan or Free India. The stamps were designed by the famous German artist Axter Heudtlass and printed by the German Printing House in Berlin. Because of political reasons and the tacit approval of Bose by Hitler and Mussolini, the stamps were never issued. While they have no value in mint condition, a period postmark on one of the ten stamps does have philatelic value.

Netaji (Great Leader) Subhas Chandra Bose was the antithesis of Mahatma Gandhi in that he believed in the necessity of force to help free India from the long duration of British rule. Bose allied himself, early in his political career with Jawarhalal Nehru and was, at one time, Mayor of Calcutta. He was jailed many times by the British and spent time exiled in Kabul, Afghanistan. Bose left Kabul and headed to Germany to recruit Indian prisoners-of-war to build his revolutionary army. Because of the passive agreement between Churchill and Hitler that Germany would not interfere with the British Empire in the Orient, Bose decided to seek support from Japan through Japan's ambassador to Germany, Yamamoto. In Japan, Bose was treated with great respect and aided by the Minister of War, General Tojo. Tojo engineered support from the Japanese government to make Bose the President-to-be of the Indian Liberation Movement. Bose moved toward some independence from Japan, and with Japan's help, funded his liberation army with funds collected from the Southeast Asia communities. On October 21, 1942 Commander General Bose was named President of the Provisional Government of Free India.

By the end of World War II Bose could no longer maintain his army and planned to surrender to Russia but his plane crashed on August 27, 1945 in Taiwan where Bose died shortly thereafter. *(contd. on next page)*

Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2013

Jan. 8, Mike Francis, Submitting a stamp variety	July 9, Gerry York, Turkish Cyprus
Feb. 12, Mike Francis, Rotary Press measuring	Aug. 13, Show Your Collection
March 12, Mike Francis, Stamp Paper types	Sept. 10, Mike Francis, TBA
April 9, Gerry York, B. I. O. T. Philately	Oct. 8, Single Page Exhibit
May 14, Club Auction, The Benson Collection	Nov. 12, Gerry York, Bangladesh
June 11, Gerry York, Castro on Stamps	Dec. 10, Annual Christmas Party



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NOTICE:

- If you have any interesting items to donate for the club's raffle, it will be appreciated. The raffle has been very popular lately with some unique philatelic items on the table.
- The October 8th meeting is the annual single page exhibit meeting. You can see the rules and guidelines at www.tsandcc.info First place price is \$50, second place is \$30 and third place is \$20.
- Sam Hendrix has a website where he is selling stamps. The site is www.samh.com. I have seen some good deals on the site.
- The editor sure could use some articles for the *Postscript*. Mail or email your articles, even rough drafts, and they can be placed in a publishable format.
- Sam Hendrix has a website where you can purchase stamps: www.stampstash.com Sam also has stamps for sale on ebay using seller id stampstash*.com. He said to contact him at sam.h@comcast.net so he can offer club members a discount.

India's Fight for Independence (contd) by Dr. Mike Francis



—————AZAD HIND Issues—————

The stamps were never placed into circulation to raise funds for the Indian National Army. At the end of World War II, the allied troops raided the German Printing House in Berlin and placed the stamps into circulation through philatelic dealers. In later years Bose was honored by India for his efforts through several stamp issues including the 1968 AZAD HIND issue showing Bose and the flag of free India (shown below, Scott 474.)



India, Scott 474

Story of Two Palestinian Postal Authorities by Gerry York with additions from Mike Francis

The Palestinian National Administration, commonly called Palestinian Authority remains a fascinating and challenging area for philatelists. Palestinian Authority (PA) stamp issues tapered off after 2004, with only a handful of issues until 2010. In fact, as set forth below, the PA did not get around to memorializing the 2004 death of Yasser Arafat until 2011!



The Gaza strip was taken over by Hamas in 2007. The Palestinian Authority has continued to oversee the Palestinian territories in the West Bank, while the Hamas government has continued to control the Gaza Strip. This split in controlling factions has led to the formation and operation of two different philatelic programs: one from the authorities in Gaza and one from Ramallah, each with their own philatelic services.

Both the Gaza and Ramallah philatelic programs can be seen under the Palestine listing at www.ArabianStamps.com. The Gaza Philatelic Office can be reached at philatelic.office@gov.ps or Ministry of Telecommunication & Information, Philatelic Office, Gaza,

Story of Two Palestinian Postal Authorities *(contd)* by Gerry York

with additions from Mike Francis

Palestinian Authority, Attn: Mervat Alnaioq. The Ramallah philatelic program can also be seen at www.palpost.ps, The Ramallah Philatelic Office can be reached at philatelic@palpost.ps; Attn: Kefah Maraqaq. In the 2011 Scott Catalog only stamps issued by the PNA are listed under Palestine Authority.

Unlike the Palestine Post, under the Palestinian Authority, stamps issued from 1994 through 2005, which concentrated on routine subjects like wildlife, flora, fauna, and cultural history, many of the recent Gaza stamp issue themes are overtly anti-Israel. For example, on May 12, 2010, the PA Post Office in Gaza issued a "National Unity" set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet showing the Palestinian flag over the Palestinian areas and the State of Israel.



Another set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet the PA Post Office in Gaza issued on the same date honors "Gaza, Land of Dignity." A May 31, 2011 set of four and souvenir sheet depicts the so-called "Freedom Fleet's Martyrs," individuals killed on a ship attempting to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. The Gaza issues are locally printed, on thin white paper, unlike the previous PA issues printed in Europe.

The PA was precluded by the Oslo Agreement (between Israel and PNA) and related agreements with Israel from using the word "Palestine" on stamps. However, a 5 stamp set issued June 3, 2013, in Gaza is inscribed "State of Palestine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs," with a picture of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque. It will be interesting to see whether the Universal Postal Union will allow the PA Post Office in Gaza to use this set for the transmission of postage. Currently stamps are issued by the Gaza Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology.



(contd on next page)

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None of these afore-mentioned sets have any counterpart in the philatelic program of the PA Post Office in Ramallah. The issues from the Ramallah PA Post Office more closely resemble the PA issues from the 1990s. For example below are the December 24, 2010 set of four stamps honoring “Christmas for All.” Note that the PA is now recognized by the United Nations as the State of Palestine.



A 2011 set of four and 2 souvenir sheets honors “Ramadan Kareem,” an Islamic holiday. A 2011 set of four honors the “Seventh Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Arafat.” (Arafat was rumored to have died of AIDS or other natural causes, so this terminology sadly demonstrates nothing but the paranoia of the Palestinian political class.) The Gaza PA Post Office declined to honor Arafat. According to a philatelic correspondent living in Gaza: “ Hamas doesn’t use Arafat



stamps.”



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President's Message *from Mike Francis*

At the meeting just held for September, a minor miracle happened. A very nice young lady named Anna showed up. She was escorted by a friend of mine, Susan Elliot, who had told me Anna is interested in collecting stamps. Maybe there is hope for getting more young people in the club after all. We could use more new member and maybe Anna will join.

Financially, the club is doing better than any time in the past. We will make another donation to the Tallahassee Senior Foundation this Christmas for being so gracious and letting use their facilities.

We have the single page exhibit coming up in the October meeting. It would be very nice to see at least 20 exhibits hanging on

the strings like it used to be in the 1990s. Give it your best shot. You never know, you may win one of the prizes.

We do need more people to participate in the presentations at the meetings. As always, I will be glad to help you put one together but I would like the topic to be one of your choosing and not mine. We try to limit the presentations to twenty minutes. Of course, it can be shorter.

One thing I have noticed is that more members are bringing material to the meeting for buying, selling and trading. This is healthy for the club. Please keep it up.

Mike