



The 1929 Airmail Stamps of India

A Glimpse of 6 Stamps

A Study of over 200+ errors



Based on original research

By Dipak, Priti & Markand Dave FRPSL

A Glimpse of 6 STAMPS

Price ₹100

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Dipak Dave

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Foreword



He has always been generous in sharing his knowledge.

Markand Dave and I share an interest in variety hunting, an enthusiasm for discovering the plate and sheet positions of known flaws and a love for the majestic 1929 Airmail stamps of India.

However, Markand's dedication in hunting down new flaws seems to know no bounds. Every time we meet he has made a new discovery or acquired an interesting item to add to his collection and he has always been generous in sharing his knowledge.

He now feels that the time has come to publish his findings and I am honoured to have been asked to say a few words here.

The 'Missing tree top' and the 'Reversed serif' on the 8 anna value have long been known to India collectors, but it will come as a surprise to many that there is such a large number of other flaws, large and small, to be found on this fascinating issue.

No doubt this book will inspire others to look more closely at the 1929 Airmail stamps and, perhaps, add

to the information which Markand Dave has collated here. This is what philately is all about: a love of stamps and a desire to expand our knowledge through sharing it with others.

Indian philately is fortunate in having had a great many eminent collectors, students and authors who have already established a vast library of information through publications going back well over 100 years. That library is now augmented by yet another important work of reference. Thank you Markand.

Hugh Jefferies MBE, FRPSL
Editor, Stanley Gibbons Catalogues
October 2015

Preface



“
With my wife
ILA DAVE
during
London Visit
”

During my first visit to UK in 2006, I found a specialised study on the Sea Horse issue. Sea Horse issue was used as High value definitive from 1913-34 for such a long period. Four different printings were made, each of them has a printed all values in different colour shades which are visible. There are varieties of the entry in the S.G catalogue, which open an avenue for Philatelist to research on constant varieties of all printing. 1929 Airmail issue inspired me to do deep research as I observed the work on Seahorse printing of Great Britain. One can compare 1929 airmail issue in a similar fashion. As the seahorse issue of Great Britain has almost similar pattern and colours.

Stanley Gibbons catalogue has listed three constant varieties, one in 3annas value and two in 8annas value, but as a collector I was always optimistic to find some more and I tried to do that. In my research, my son and daughter joined me. We started to go through as many as possible stamps and covers. As a result, we were rewarded by some new discoveries.

Dipak Dave
January 2015

Message

In the current climate where Air Mail collectors tend to spend their time and energy on flown covers and limit their research to the routes and rates. It makes a nice change to see some new research into what would now be termed modern stamps, although issued over 85 years ago, the classics of India having been endlessly researched and written about. The 1929 Air set of just six stamps currently has just three varieties noted in Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and Empire catalogue namely the 'Q' for 'O' flaw in postage on the 3a and the 'Missing Tree Top' and 'Reversed Serif' on the 8a. All values being noted with reversed watermark.

Markand Dave is to be congratulated on proposing this monograph, listing and illustrating the many positional and constant varieties that are to be found on this issue, He gave a presentation of this ongoing work to the British Air Mail Society when it held its meeting at The Royal Philatelic Society London identifying some fifty plus fly specs. Although he is a stamp dealer he is a collector at heart and readily gives his time and knowledge to those who ask and likes to be kept informed by other serious collectors.

Peter Lister FRPSL
Past President British Air Mail Society
Sept 2015

Acknowledgement from Authors

Initially we started the study of all three commemorative issues of India KGV 1929 Airmail Issue, the 1931 New Delhi Inauguration Issue and the 1935 Silver Jubilee. We were able to discover the Centre double in the 1931 Issue and frame double varieties in the 1935 issue, However apart from the SG listed Bird Flaw and FURANA Quila variety we were not able to discover more than 10 varieties. Since there was not much scope for further discovery we concentrated on the 1929 Airmail Issue.

Turning point of our research was our review of Mr. Bill Fincham's collection of the 1929 India Airmail Issue. This collection inspired us to go ahead. This has indicated us that we were on the right path. The research work has resulted with many constant positional varieties and hundreds of other are on the opinion of Philatelists what they will consider them?

The finding has come out with our research work classified in different categories. Constant varieties with Position traced out and Position not traced out. Set off, Letter varieties, Frame varieties and Vignette varieties.

Many years passed in India philately after late Jal Cooper, D. N. Wadia & Shri Devki Nandan Jatia in British India nothing has come out as a study in our knowledge. We would like to dedicate this work to Late Mr. Bill Fincham and Mr. Jal Cooper.

We would like to thank all known and unknown eBay sellers, Pradip Jain, Arun Agrawal, Rohit Prasad, B G Tonde, Dilip Sahani, R C Somani, Ramavtar Jain, Ashish Talwar, P P Singh and G P Singh of India, Malcolm Richardson & Alistair Cook, Michael Pugh, Graham O'Hara, David Milton, Derek Bolton, David Löffsadt, Philip Newby, Roy Hollis of United Kingdom, Franz Fedra of Germany and Aravind of USA for willingly sourcing the material.

Dipak, Priti and Makand Dave FRPSL
January 2015



A few words



“
With President of
The Royal Philatelic
Society London,
Frank Walton
RDP, FRPSL
(Left) ”

Dear Friends

If we have crossed paths before, you surely know that I collect stamps from the India 1929 Airmail issue. If you are a collector, then out of curiosity I would have asked you to show me your airmail stamps. On the other hand, if you are a dealer, I would have pestered you to sell me your 1929 airmail stamps.

I am fortunate enough to have been blessed with a photographic memory. Once I see an error stamp in someone else's collection or exhibit, my eyes takes an instant snapshot which is saved in my head for good. My eyes then never rest till I find a similar copy. I have also been fortunate to have friends like Mr. Harsh Gupta, whose collection of Indian Airmails has helped propel and further my study of these error stamps.

In my view, one of the most important discovery I have made is the 3As stamp printed double and without the "KUWAIT" overprint. Another important discovery, hitherto unknown, is the "Q" for "O" error on the 3As stamp overprinted "KUWAIT". The "Q" for "O" error for many years was believed to exist only on the India issue, and not on the Kuwait issue! What a pity that the 8As stamp was never overprinted "KUWAIT", else we would have had access to errors such as the famous "Tree-Top Missing" and the "Reversed Serif"! Another personal favourite published in this book is the printing error of "1" instead of the 2nd "I" in "INDIA". I have also brought to the notice of Michael Sefi LVO, RDP (The Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection) that this particular variety exists in Her Majesty's collection during my visit in Nov 2011. (See Type # 42)

The credit of discovering some of the most complicated and difficult to notice errors goes to my sister, Priti Dave's eagle eyes. She is directly responsible for 35-40% of the errors recorded in this book, and, also for creating all the 6 master plates showing all the errors, which she executed under the tutelage of my father, Mr. Dipak Dave.

The work by the Late Bill Fincham will remain incredible. Mr. Fincham use to discuss about his study by his correspondence with Leading Philatelists like Gerald Davis, Richard Davis, Max Smith, Pradip Jain, Madhukar Jhingan and others. He laid the foundation for about 40 errors and varieties in the year 2002 which he shared with Pradip Jain.

I hope this book leaves you all enthralled and with a yearning for more.....

Markand Dave FRPSL
September 2015

Reader's review

Harsh Gupta | New Delhi

The study and dedication of many years is quite evident. This helped me to locate many of varieties in my collection. Heartiest thanks for this book available at printing cost and sharing your knowledge with us. No words can be enough.

Dinesh Kanabar | Mumbai

If philately has to continue to generate interest, it is important that there is more and more research and interesting aspects not hitherto known come to light. I am delighted that Dave family excels in this. They have had keen eye for details which enables them to look for varieties hitherto not know and which sparks interest in collectors. The 1929 Airmail issue is in itself a very interesting topic. As a result of extensive research over the years, what the Dave family has done is to provide an in depth study of these stamps, the evolution, the printing process, the errors, the constant varieties, etc. I am delighted that this study is now being published as a book for the lovers of philately.

Dinyar Madon | Mumbai

Over the last couple of years, Markand has from time to time shown me various varieties that he has discovered in the King George V Airmail issues of 1929. I have always been interested in finding varieties and, therefore, am aware of the time, effort and patience that it takes to find even one known variety. The expanse of the canvas that Markand has produced in the varieties of the King George V Airmail issues of 1929 is a testimony of the love and passion that Markand has for Philately. To have discovered so many hitherto unknown varieties means that he has examined thousands of stamps over several hundreds of hours. A painstaking and tiresome process that one cannot do unless one is passionate about the subject. By this study, Markand has opened up an entirely new vista in British India Philately, an area not explored in the past. I compliment Markand on this herculean task and hope that he continues to enlighten the Philatelic world with even more discoveries. I compliment the Dave family for this effort and wish the book all success.

Dr. Uttam Reddy | Hyderabad

An excellent work on a long time neglected subject. Dave's work has brought about renewed interest in this very fascinating subject. I personally took to 1929 airmails after learning about the many varieties available in this issue. Dave's work has encouraged many collectors both in India and abroad to start studying the 1929 airmail issue both for varieties as well as for rates & routes.

Piyush Khaitan | Mumbai

Young Markand Dave first started studying the 1929 Airmail issue for errors more than a decade ago. Over these years, he has painstakingly discovered and documented over 200 different errors. This by itself is no mean feat, and worthy of a solid round of applause. However, what I found even more remarkable was the fact that over these years Markand has openly shared his progress by writing, exhibiting, and presenting his findings in every possible forum. Many persons close to him will attest to the fact that the Daves maintain an open house in Nadiad, where all are welcome, professional and amateur alike, to study his discoveries, take notes, and even request for copies. I too have been the happy beneficiary of this munificence. When you meet his father, Dipakji, himself a veteran professional philatelist, it is easy to see where this love for philately, attention to detail, and the sharing and caring nature comes from in Markand and his sister Priti. This book is a labour of love by the three Daves, and I am sure will serve as a definitive reference manual for anyone interested in the subject.

Madhukar Deogawankar | Kolkata

When I first met Markand, what struck me was his thirst for deep philatelic knowledge. In my forty years of collecting I have met very few collectors in India who are so research driven. During the last seven years or so, Markand has devoted himself to the research of the 1929 Airmail stamps of India. What's more, he has been sharing his findings and exhibiting on a regular basis. His passion and single-minded focus on researching the plate flaws and sheet positions apart from known varieties is well known in the philatelic community. From the outset, it has been a pleasure to share information with Markand, whenever he sought my opinion, suggestion or asked me to procure these six stamps in sheet, blocks or any condition. His continued study of the Two Annas Typograph of 1854, the Six Airmail Stamps of 1929, Early India Cancellations and other areas are to be applauded. So I am indeed delighted to see Markand publishing his research on a subject that no one else has ventured into. This will be a book like no other, with its extent of research on a niche topic of airmail stamps. I trust this book will also set an example for collectors to study other hitherto unexplored areas of Indian philately.



FRAME BROKEN UNDER POSTAGE



FRAME BROKEN BETWEEN D & I OF INDIA



TAIL BROKEN



COMMA BEFORE THE POSITIONAL CONSTANT R8/10



PEARL FLAW OVER INDIA



FRAME BROKEN UNDER A OF AIR



PEARL IN G OF POSTAGE



PEARL NEAR A OF AIR



FRAME BROKEN AT RIGHT CORNER OF VALUE TAB



PEARL BETWEEN P OF MAIL



WAVY FRAME LINES



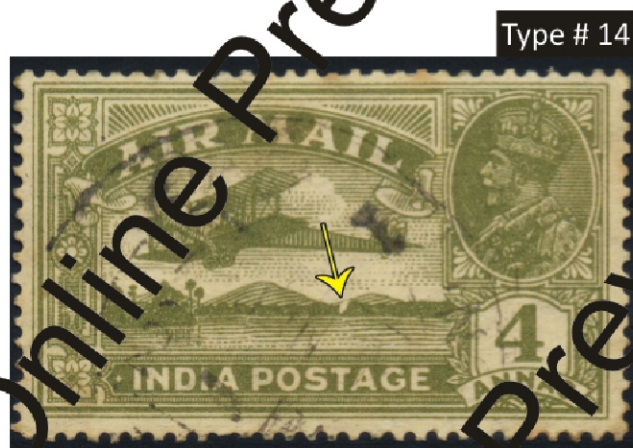
PEARL ON A OF AIR



PLATE SCRATCH FROM KING'S NECK TO CHEST AND HILLS



BROKEN BAR IN TAIL



VALLEY IN HILL



DOT BETWEEN FRAMES IN CENTRE

Normal Stamp For Comparison



When We Smell Many Perfumes We Need A Coffee Break.



FEATHER IN CROWN



BROKEN BAR IN TAIL



ARC PASSING THROUGH T OF POSTAGE
TO L OF MAIL (Exist w/o KUWAIT /p also)



FLAW ON I OF INDIA
(Exist w/o KUWAIT /p also)

Normal Stamp For Comparison



When We Smell Many Perfumes We Need A Coffee Break.



COMMA IN BOTTOM LOOP OF 8



PEARL FLAW BEFORE AIR



BROKEN WING AND TAIL



PEARL BETWEEN AIR & POSTAGE



PEARL BETWEEN A & I OF AIR



BIG COLOUR DOT ON SCROLL BEFORE AIR



PEARLS NEAR P OF POSTAGE



PRE PRINTING PAPER FOLD ERROR



PLATE SCRATCH ABOVE INDIA



BROKEN BARS BEHIND KING

Normal Stamp For Comparison



When We Smell Many Perfumes We Need A Coffee Break.