

Victorian India

This exhibition will show the diverse usage of Indian stamps, postage, postal stationary and overprinted stamps as the British Forces expanded the Empire in Asia and on to the African Continent, under the reign of Queen Victoria. Sir Bartle Frere issued the first Indian stamps in 1851; these stamps were suppressed in 1854. Under the Umbrella of the East India Company, new stamps showing the head of Queen Victoria with the inscription "India" were printed at the Survey Office in Calcutta. De La Rue took over the printing contract in 1885 and a new issue also showing the head of Queen Victoria were released with the inscription "East India Postage". Queen Victoria assumed the title of Empress of India in 1877 and the inscription on the stamps changed from "East India Postage" to "India Postage".

Prior to the issuing of stamps all mail travelled by ship to & fro India. On behalf of the East India Company, Lt Waghorn R.N. organised an overland route, which shortened the mail transit time by as much as 60 days. However the cost of the mails carried overland was prohibitively expensive, and as a result 95% of mail continued to be transported by sea.

- Page 1.....Introduction & Plan page
- 2.....Mail carried overland
- 3.....Provincial issue of Sind
- 4-10.....East India Company issue, printed in Calcutta
- 11-14.....East India Company issue, printed by De La Rue England
- 15-16.....First Postal Stationary issue
- 17-25.....Mail carried from & within India "East India Postage"
- 26.....Empress of India Essays "India Postage"
- 27-29.....Empress of India Issues
- 30-34.....Postal Stationary issues
- 35-36.....Soldiers & Seamen's Envelopes
- 37-41.....Regular mail & Registered mail
- 42-45.....Postage Due markings
- 46.....Late mail markings
- 47-48.....Detained mail markings
- 49.....Sea Post Office transit markings
- 50-58.....Official usage and mails carried
- 59.....Commemorative post mark
- 60-64.....Was issues Chinese Expeditionary Forces
- 65-71.....Native States overprints & usage
- 72-73.....Kashmir Local issue
- 74-80.....India used abroad

