

Adhiparasakthi Philatelic Society
Adhiparasakthi Educational Institutions, G.B.Nagar, Kalavai-632 506, Vellore District

NEWS LETTER

Letter Number : 04

24th March, 2009

Ref : STK – 02

Page 1 of 1

Prepared by Prof. Dr. Vra. Saathappan, Philatelist, Numismatist and Notaphylist



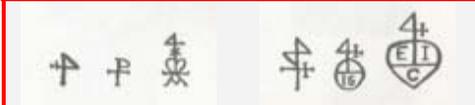
First Scinde Dawk

STAMP TALK Scinde Dawk

I am **SCINDE DAWK**, Asia's as well as India's first postage stamp talking to you. I am also the World's first **round postage stamp**. I was first materialized in the thoughts of **Sir Bartle Frere**, the commissioner of Sindh province (at present Sindh province is a part of Pakistan). He was the son in law of Sir John Arthur, who was the Governor of Bombay. The post office at Sindh, was one of the four important post offices whose postal administration was under the control of Bombay Presidency.

Sir Bartle Frere was assigned with the job of bringing postal reforms in Sindh province and the order was issued on 15th October 1851. An admirer of Sir Rowland Hill's Penny Black postage scheme and encouraged by the order, Sir Frere with the support of Edward Lees Coffey the post master of Karachi, designed me and ordered for a die from M/s De La Rue and Co Ltd., London.

I was finally issued to the public from Karachi post office on 1st July 1854, 14 years after the birth of Penny Black on 6th May 1840. My birth also gave credit to India as the 10th country in the World to issue a postage stamp. Initially I was embossed on a red sealing wax with a backing paper. The intricacy of my design was not easily visible. You can clearly see my design structure in the blue Scinde Dawk. The design at the centre has puzzled many collectors. Major Rydot of Indian Army has said that "+", "P" and Heart shape are related to Christianity. "+" is an ancient Christian sign, "P" is the first letter of the name of Christ in Greek. "4" is a mystic sign found, almost in all marine merchant's mark. Since British came to India as merchants, the inclusion of "4" could have been sentimental.

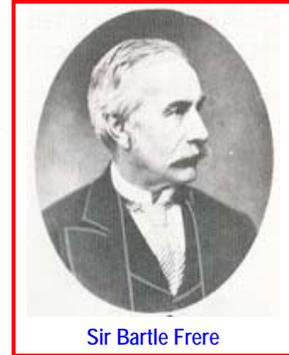


The evolution of the Scinde Dawk design

The heart is divided into three segments, each segment containing one of the letters **EIC** which means **East India Company**. Below the design, the value of the stamp "**½ ANNA**" is present in two lines. This design is enclosed in a circular belt forming a border. The belt contains the inscription "**SCINDE DISTRICT DAWK**", with the belt buckled at the lower centre showing the holes for the buckle grip. (the buckle portion has been enlarged).



By this time you might be wondering about the name used on me. "Scinde" is the British spelling for "Sindh" and "Dawk" is the anglicised spelling of the Hindustani word "Dak" which means post or mail. So the words on me means **Sindh District Mail**.



Sir Bartle Frere

I was so fragile and easily cracked and disintegrated during usage. So next attempt was to emboss me on a whitish or bluish paper. Blue colour lines were added between me as guide lines for embossing. But I was difficult to be seen by the postal clerks at night by candle light, especially when I was on a white cover.

So the authorities decided to get myself printed and get me embossed, M/s De La Rue and Co Ltd., London was given the order. The instructions to the printers were to print me in blue and add a ring to the design, engraved on the master die to give an appearance of a circular stamp. After a short duration of my arrival and issue in India as Blue Scinde Dawk, I was withdrawn from issue and destroyed to give way for a centralised postal system in India.

I have a few more information to share with you. So we will meet again in the next News Letter.



White Scinde Dawk

shades of Blue Scinde Dawk

For Private circulation among Adhiparasakthi Educational Institutions at Melmaruvathur & G.B.Nagar only