

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 52 - Issue No. 1 w323

January - March, 2021

Sequoia Stamp Club

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second** and **fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:05 pm. Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 235
San Carlos, CA 94070

More info at:
www.penpex.org/ssc



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President's Message

Finally, the difficult year of 2020 has concluded. The Sequoia Stamp Club has been able to adapt and, in some ways, grow. The year 2021 will continue to challenge us. Our past President, Jim Southward has done a great job with leading our club with the fantastic leadership team. I thank Mr. Southward for his guidance and wish him continued recovery from his recent health situation. Please allow me to thank the Sequoia Stamp Club with entrusting me to lead the club as its new President. I see the coming year as a continuation of the challenges from 2020. It will be my job along with the leadership team to help safely guide our club to some normalcy.



The Sequoia Stamp Club has existed since 1947. Our current membership is witness to some of the most unique adaptations in order to survive. Through the challenges of COVID and lockdown we have benefited from Zoom meetings. We developed new ways of having auctions, creating community, and presenting philatelic content. Most importantly, we found the comfort with our stamp collections.

Will we see PENPEX in 2021? We will prepare and plan. And hope.

Don't forget to renew your American Philatelic Society membership if you haven't done so already. The APS has also helped during this pandemic year by providing online content and even putting on a virtual stamp show. If you haven't joined yet and would like information you can find more at www.stamps.org.

As a group we are fortunate to be philatelists. We have our community. We can travel the world. We can travel in time. We can share. We have each other. Philately is a gift.

Sincerely,

Patrick Ford

Schedule: Club Meetings (in black) and Club Events (in blue)

- ♦ **January 6:** **CANCELLED Until Further Notice.** First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, Community Activities Building (CAB).
- ♦ **January 12:** Inauguration of Officers. Past Presidents Present. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ **January 26:** 6:00 PM SSC Board meeting (all welcome). Members Online Auction including items to benefit San José Postcard Club.
- ♦ **February 9:** Philatelic Quiz #1. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ **February 23:** Using an Auction House by Schuyler Rumsey (tentative). Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ **March 9:** Philatelic Quiz #2. Online Mini-Auction.
- ♦ **March 23:** Online Larke Auction, 40 items. Jim Giacomazzi.

All club meetings start at 7 PM Pacific time and are virtual online Zoom meetings until further notice, because the CAB has cancelled all building rentals; there is no date for re-opening the CAB. The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Picture Gallery



Eduardo Martino shows the first Colombian stamp; it was issued by Argentina in 1892.



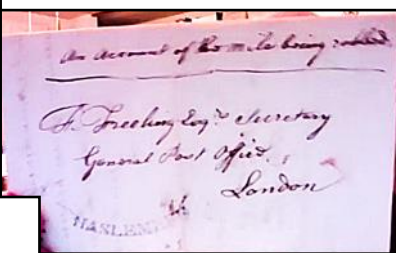
Jim Giacomazzi shows a postcard that his parents sent from Venezuela while visiting Jim when he was in the Peace Corps there.



Ken Perkins favorite item is a Great Britain #1 Penny Black stamp that he bought at a local stamp shop for only \$5.00, many years ago.



David Abrahams shows a 1798 English cover.



Joe Coleman shows a porcelain water reservoir with wheel to moisten coil stamps.



Shav La Vigne's item is a 1915 post card with a one-cent stamp and a Christmas seal tied by the cancellation.



Laura Peterhans shows a cover sent to her father from a submarine under the North Pole.

Show Your Favorite Philatelic Item November 24 and December 8, 2020



Emmett Whitfield's favorite item is a US commemorative pair honoring Negro Leagues Baseball. His love of baseball and these stamps inspired him to collect stamps. His father, Terry Whitfield, was a Major League Baseball player in the 1970's and 1980's.

Newsletter Staff: Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Patrick Ford; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin.

The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: www.penpex.org/SSC or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

The Census - Part 1

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

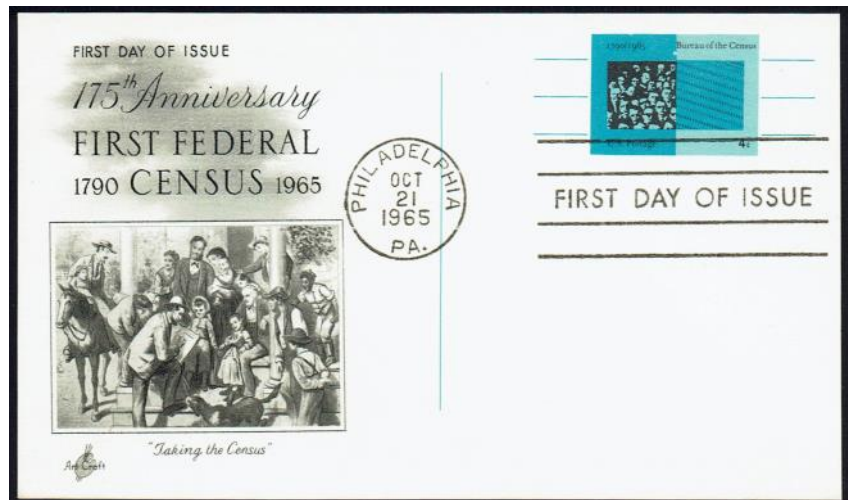
International stamps showing tribute to census taking would make for an unusual topical collection. I became interested in learning more about worldwide census taking after being employed with the U.S. Census Bureau part-time in 2020 as an enumerator (census taker). I read Gunnar Thorvaldsen's book, Census and Census Takers: A Global History, for a complex history.



Census taking can be traced back to Biblical times where there were all-male counts to see how many men were ready to fight in the army. Census taking in Norway in 1664 claimed it was required to show there was a need for larger churches. The French Canadians obtained a census from 1665 to 1666 to see the effect on population growth despite Indian attacks, harsh climate, and illness. It appeared there were many more men than women so to help the population grow, about 800 young women were sent from France to Quebec. Using the census as a basis, taxes were placed on single men, while marriage and families were rewarded.

These types of pre-census analyses were taken in limited areas and often not regularly and without gaining information on families or their household. Adolphe Quetelet became the father of the modern census. He was born in 1796 in Ghent (now, Ghent, Belgium) and worked in Brussels as a statistician. He suggested that one day should be appointed as a census day to avoid overcount. He emphasized accuracy. He suggested that besides names, gender, marital status, age and occupation, that religion and nationality data be taken as well.

In the United States, the census became a requirement of the Constitution and when commenced in 1790, it was to determine political representation on population size in different districts. It collected information about which individuals lived together in families and households. Census questionnaires to be completed by individuals were mandatory. The United States would continue to take a census every decade in a year ending with a zero, as stated in the Constitution. The U.S. has used the *de jure* method since its beginning, which counts people according to their regular or legal residence, as the census is primarily used to apportion voters to their electoral districts which would be their place of legal residency.



Great Britain introduced that their census be taken every ten years starting in 1841. Great Britain would use the *de facto* method instead, which was a way for recording an individual's whereabouts on census night, where they were living and sleeping at that time. Other countries would use the *de facto* method as well and some would use the *de jure* method, or a combination of both.



A global universal world census would be exhilarating, but since each country does census taking in their own way, uniformity is a barrier. Different questions would be asked but when the United States considered asking about religion on the 1960 census form, it was eliminated due to huge protests. Overcount or undercount of the population have often been a problem, but as Adolphe Quetelet proposed, the goal has been to get as accurate a count as possible.

To be continued in the next issue of the *Stamp Chatter* . . .

Postal History Meets Family History

By Ken Perkins

I keep telling myself 'I don't do postal history', so how do I end up writing about a cover? It's all Patrick Ford's fault.

The August presentation given by Patrick and his colleague Joe Spina on using covers in teaching inspired me to examine a bunch of covers I've had stored in a little album which I haven't looked at for many years. I didn't find anything that looked useful for Patrick's classes, but one tattered little cover caught my attention.

The cover, which contained a letter (currently missing) sent by my father, a naval officer, to my mother in early 1945, piqued my curiosity. Just like one of Patrick's students, I began to ask some questions about the information on the cover.

The stamps themselves are the 3¢ 'Win The War' stamp, Scott #905. Issued on a patriotic July 4, 1942, with its eagle wings making a Churchillian 'V' for victory, the stamp is ubiquitous on WWII covers. Military personnel could mail letters home free of charge, but that free-franked mail got only surface transport. The two 3¢ stamps paid for airmail service, that rate being a concession to service personnel since the domestic airmail rate increased to 8¢ in March of 1944.



I knew he had been posted to Hawaii, where his parents had lived before he was born, and got there by ship. The cancellation is a simple 'U. S. Navy' marking of April 3, 1945 . . . no ship identification. But his return address shows he was aboard the USS Pamina, KA34 (actually AKA34). An *Artemis*-class attack cargo ship designed to land cargo and troops during amphibious operations against enemy shores, the Pamina was built in Providence, Rhode Island, and commissioned on February 10, 1945.

Her first cruise was to Honolulu, Hawaii, via the Panama Canal, to join the Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor. She left Pearl Harbor on April 22, bound for Okinawa. So my father was aboard the Pamina on her maiden cruise. The letter must have been posted when the ship reached Pearl Harbor. The return address ends with 'FPO San Francisco'. The FPO (Fleet Post Office) System was developed to allow rapidly-moving Naval and Marine Corps units to receive mail while keeping their geographic location secret. The FPO San Francisco headquarters were at 651 Brannon Street.

The cover also bears a 'Passed By Naval Censor' handstamp, with the censor's initials but no indication of when or where it was censored. According to War Dept. Pamphlet 21-1 on writing home, issued 29 July, 1943, officers were allowed to self-censor their own letters, placing their initials in the lower left corner of the envelope. So if the scrawled initials we see on the cover are "EWP", my father acted as his own censor. There are no marks on the back of the cover.

I then became curious about what was happening in the war on April 3, 1945. The battle of Okinawa had begun 3 days earlier. I initially thought that my father's younger brother, a U.S. Marine (I've always thought he joined the Marines to show up his brothers, who joined the Army and Navy), might have been involved in that operation. But since my father ran into him (almost literally, on a highway on Oahu) while he was in Hawaii, his brother's unit must have been in Hawaii on R&R after the battle of Iwo Jima, where he went ashore as part of the second wave of troops.

Continued on page 5 . . .

Jim's Garage

By John Corwin

You've been fortunate enough to win the bidding for an item at one of our online auctions. Now, how do you pay for and take delivery of the item? That's not an easy question to answer during this COVID-19 pandemic. We are not holding in-person meetings and so you can't merely pay for it and pick it up at the back table as usual. One possibility is to ask that it be mailed to you, but the better alternative is to visit Jim Giacomazzi's house in Redwood City. But following the pandemic safety rules, you and Jim don't want to meet inside. So, when Jim answers the front door bell, he points over to his garage. Moments later, the garage door opens, and Jim welcomes you to his open-air stamp store. Now, you can safely pay him for the item and pick it up.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Ford

And as a bonus, you get the chance to have a pleasant chat about stamp collecting with Jim, who is one of the most knowledgeable members of our club. Also, you can browse other material that he has for sale.

Of course, this works for the members who live in the Bay Area. If you live out of the area, Jim will happily mail the item to you.

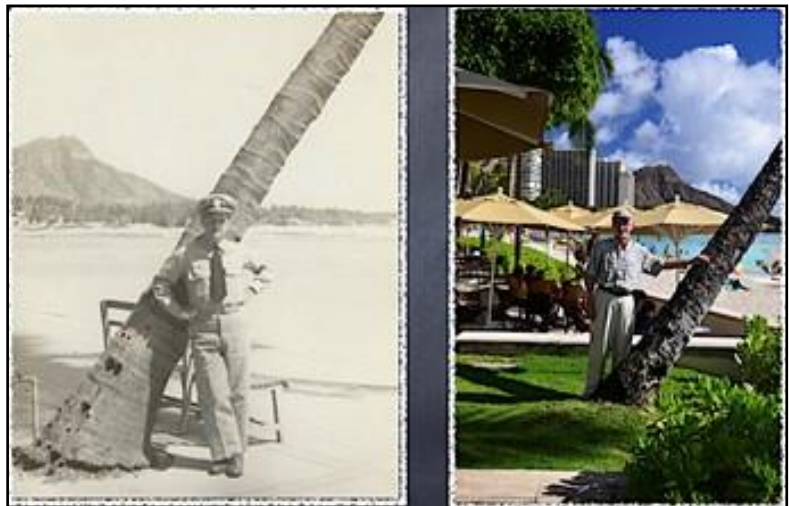
This unique stamp store needs a name. "Jim's Garage" isn't descriptive enough. Patrick Ford suggests "The Giacomazzi Covid Stamp Auction Exchange". I suggest "Covid-free Stamp Store". Any other ideas?

Postal History Meets Family History ~ continued from page 4

The delivery address is my maternal grandparents' home: my mother and her 18 month-old son (me) were staying with her Italian-immigrant parents while my father was on active duty. Since my father was probably sending some of his pay home, I wondered how much a Lt.(jg) was paid in 1945. A little internet research showed that he was making \$200 a month. Not bad for a time when multi-bedroom flats in San Francisco went for \$30-40 a month.

This cover is marked with a number '1' in a small circle. I wonder where the subsequent letters are today? My father and both of his brothers survived WWII, although the brother who joined the Army lost a leg while serving in the South Pacific.

Here's my father on Waikiki Beach during WWII. On a visit to Hawaii some 60 years later, we fancy we found the same tree in front of a hotel restaurant. My wife says that the 27 year old Lt.(jg) looks much more casual than your author does, so I guess we'll just have to go back and do it again.



Thanks to Patrick and his colleague, I had a new look at an old cover, and like their students, I learned a lot from a closer examination of it.

Postcard Corner: Why Should Stamp Collectors Also Consider Collecting Postcards?

By Shav La Vigne

Let's face it, collecting is fun, time consuming, educational, interesting, exciting and can, sometimes, be monetarily rewarding. Each of us has been bitten, in one way or the other, with the collecting bug!

I started out as a stamp collector many years ago doing my best to keep up with all of the various U.S. stamps printed from the 1970's up until the price of stamps became a problem for me to continue. Along with the new stamps, I enjoyed looking for, and sometime buying, stamps that interested me at stamp shops and stamp shows.

While enjoying this pastime, I began looking at the postcards that were usually in a non-conspicuous spot in the shops. I began to find more and more historically interesting and beautiful postcards. Soon the cards demanded more of my attention than stamps.

Here is what I think is a good reason for more stamp collectors, like I was, to consider looking at and collecting postcards.

It is absolutely true that stamps contain the history of our country from its beginning to today. They have featured our founders, pioneers, inventors, achievements, and nearly every other aspect of what it is to live in America. They are miniature masterpieces that tell the story of the United States.

Although postcards are a relative newcomer, they not only tell the story through the stamps used to send them, but they actually reveal the thoughts and concerns of their writers! They were the emails of their time. I enjoy reading each postcard never knowing what information I may find out about the sender.

By looking and reading, I have been able to find such interesting postcards that reveal the occupations, intentions, hopes and accomplishments of their senders. Yes, the stamps are there and offer a lot to study and enjoy but do they tell you the thoughts of their writers?

As a nosey person, I love to read messages on postcards. Most of the time, the writing amounts to nothing, but sometimes the card reveals truly interesting and historic information. Look for these postcards, like I have. Hopefully, you will find pieces of history that go over and above what you may find on just the stamp!

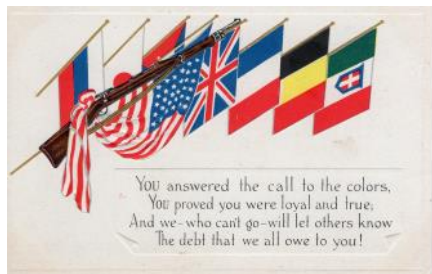
Locally, the San Jose Postcard Club is available to help with any questions regarding postcards. Our members collect postcards from all over the world covering many subjects and topics. You can reach us by contacting me at shavlavigne@yahoo.com or by writing us at The San Jose Postcard Club, P.O. Box 23115, San José, CA 95153.

Patriotic Postcards

By Shav La Vigne

My friend, Richard Uhler's family developed the wonderful habit of sending greetings to each other through the use of postcards. He has literally hundreds of carefully preserved cards most of which were sent between family members, and most of these cards were not posted but simply given to their recipients when the family gathered together.

Richard allowed me to study his collection, and I especially enjoyed these patriotic postcards from the World War I era.

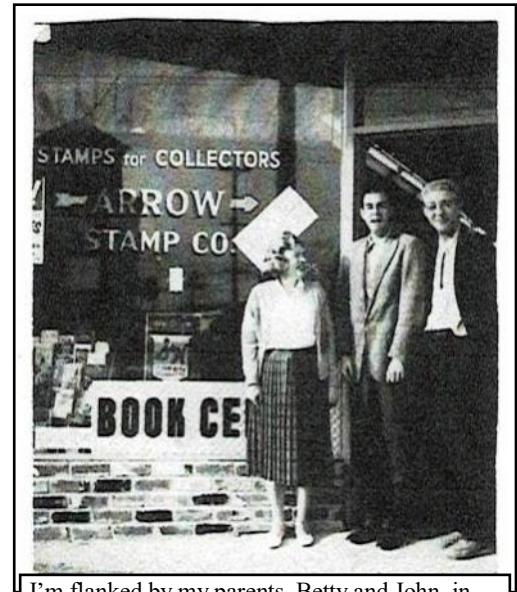


San Francisco Stamp Dealing in Earlier Times

by Denis Norrington

When my parents and I first opened Arrow Stamp Co. on July 4th, 1956, we were only one of between 8 and 10 stamp dealers in San Francisco. Our first client on that day was a friendly British gent who had flown with both the R.A.F. and the A.A.F. in World War II. We started in business at a time when US plate blocks cost a dime and 2 pennies at the Post Office and when the first-class letter rate was 3 cents!

The major US stamp dealers of that time were H.E. Harris, who had stamp sales displays in Woolworth Five and Dime stores throughout the USA, and Jacques Minkus, who in addition to his expanding lines of stamp albums, was opening stamp and coin departments in department stores throughout the nation. When my parents and I took a business trip back to New York, we met Mr. Minkus at his huge stamp department in Gimbel's Department Store in New York City. He took us to lunch, and in his affable way, told us, "Mr. Norrington, in this business you'll have a million stamps but not a million dollars!" So far, he has been proven right, but I'm still trying!



I'm flanked by my parents, Betty and John, in front of our store. I had all my hair back then!

We also met the world's largest new-issue dealer of the time, J. Louis Stollow. My father arranged to start receiving new issues from all over the world in our shop. We sent out copies of his illustrated new issue list to clients in the mail. It was possible to get all the new issues of the world at that time, because the United Nations had only 55-60 members, not the 195 today!

In addition to our first collector customer above, we have had many others who were fascinating and interesting philatelists. There was then a lady who started out by buying 3-cent stamps for her Global album and ended up 39 years later with a 110-volume worldwide stamp collection. Then there was the elderly gentleman from the Richmond District of San Francisco who had invented the precision bombsight used by Allied bombers in World War II. He put together huge almost complete collections of major European countries he had lived in.

One of our most well-known philatelic clients was Sig Adler, world-renown expert in classic stamps of the world. He collected worldwide UP TO 1875 and worked for the APS's expertizing service. He was always friendly, solicitous, and full of enthusiasm whenever he visited us. He would go through our recent purchases of classic material and could immediately tell if the stamps were genuine, reprints, or occasionally outright forgeries. He was especially interested in German States and Italian States collecting!

There's lots more to tell later, including how we came to mass manufacture 40,000 to 50,000 stamp packets for the H.E. Harris Co. for their Woolworth outlets. To find out some of that, see our website, Arrowstamp.com.

Editor's notes: Sig Adler was a longtime active member of Sequoia Stamp Club until his death in 2003. Also, see Arrow Stamp Company's advertisement in Linn's Stamp News, December 21, 2020.

Donations to Non-Profit Organizations

By John Corwin

In recent years, Sequoia Stamp Club has been in the fortunate financial position to make donations to non-profit organizations, and 2020 was no different. Jay Strauss headed the committee that decided which organizations and how much we should donate during the holiday season. The governing board approved gifts to the following:

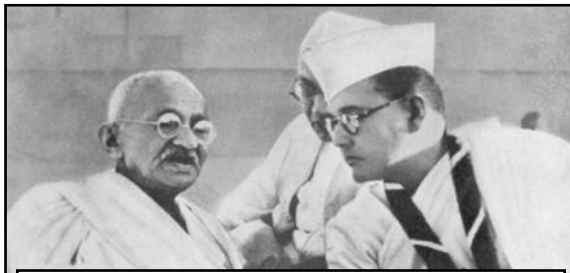
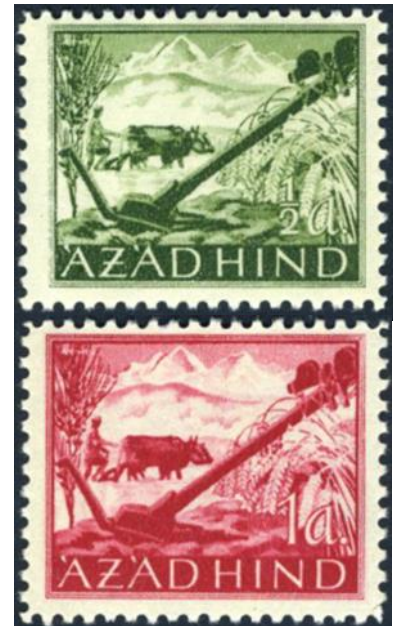
- ◆ Friends of the Redwood City Library, \$250
- ◆ Friends of the Western Philatelic Library, \$250
- ◆ Healthy Cities Tutoring, \$250
- ◆ San Mateo County Historical Association, \$250
- ◆ St. Francis Center, \$250
- ◆ American Philatelic Research Library (to their adopt-a-book program for Kristin Patterson's book *It's a Wrap!*, which she previously donated to the APRL), \$50

Azad Hind - Part 1

By Jim Sauer

The Provisional Government of Free India, or, more simply, Free India (Azad Hind), was an Indian provisional government established in occupied Singapore in 1943 and supported by the Empire of Japan, Nazi Germany, Italian Social Republic, and their allies.

It was a part of a political movement originating in the 1940s outside India with the purpose of allying with the Axis powers to free India from British rule. It was established by Indian nationalists-in-exile during the latter part of World War II in Singapore with monetary, military, and political assistance from Imperial Japan. Founded on October 21, 1943, the government was inspired by the concepts of Subhas Chandra Bose who was also the leader of the government and the Head of State of this Provisional Indian Government-in-exile. The government proclaimed authority over Indian civilian and military personnel in Southeast Asian British colonial territory and prospective authority over Indian territory to fall to the Japanese forces and the Indian National Army (INA) during the Japanese thrust towards India during World War II. The government of Azad Hind had its own currency, court, and civil code, and in the eyes of some Indians its existence gave a greater legitimacy to the independence struggle against the British.



Mahatma Gandhi with Rash Behari Bose in 1938

However, while it possessed all the nominal requisites of a legitimate government, it lacked large and definite areas of sovereign territory until Japan gave it nominal authority of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in Bengal Bay between Thailand and India during 1943 and later the occupation of parts of Manipur and Nagaland in the northeast part of India. Japanese officials made all the decisions, and throughout its existence, it was entirely dependent on Japanese support.

Immediately after the formation of the government-in-exile, Azad Hind declared war against the Anglo-American allied forces on the Indo-Burma Front. Its army, the INA or "Azad Hind Fauj" (Indian National Army), went into action against the British Indian Army and the allied forces as part of the Imperial Japanese Army in the Imphal-Kohima sector. The INA had its first major engagement at the Battle of Imphal where, under the command of the Japanese Fifteenth Army, it breached the British defenses in Kohima, reaching the salient of Moirang before suffering a catastrophic defeat as the Allied forces held, and Allied air dominance and compromised supply lines forced both the Japanese and the INA to retreat.

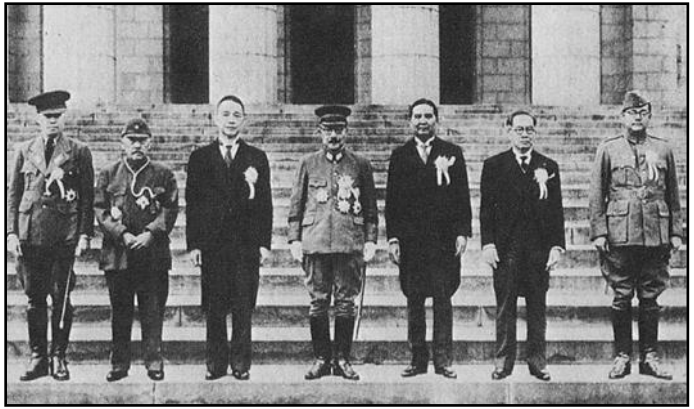
The existence of Azad Hind was essentially coterminous with the existence of the Indian National Army. While the government itself continued until the civil administration of the Andaman Islands was returned to the jurisdiction of the British towards the end of the war, the limited power of Azad Hind was effectively ended with the surrender of the last major contingent of INA troops in Rangoon. The death of Bose is seen as the end of the entire Azad Hind movement.

Some historians contend that the Azad Hind was a free and independent government. The legacy of Azad Hind is, however, open to judgment. After the war, the British Raj observed with alarm the transformation of the perception of Azad Hind from traitors and collaborators to "the greatest among the patriots". Given the tide of militant nationalism that swept through India and the resentment and revolts it inspired, it is arguable that its overarching aim, to foster public resentment and revolts within the Indian forces of the British Indian Army to overthrow the Raj, was ultimately successful.

Continued on page 9 . . .

Azad Hind ~ continued from page 8

The direct origins of Azad Hind can be linked to two conferences of Indian expatriates from across Southeast Asia, the first of which was held in Tokyo in March 1942. At this conference, convened by Rash Behari Bose, an Indian expatriate living in Japan, the Indian Independence League was established as the first move towards an independent Indian state politically aligned with the Empire of Japan. Rash also moved to create a sort of independence army that would assist in driving the British from India – this force would later become the Indian National Army (INA). The second conference, held later that year in Bangkok, invited Subhas Chandra Bose to participate in the leadership of the League. Bose was living in Germany at the time and made the trip to Japan via submarine.



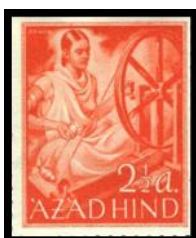
Rash Behari Bose, who was already ageing by the time the League was founded, struggled to keep the League organized and failed to secure resources for the establishment of the Indian National Army. He was replaced as president of the Indian Independence League by Subhas Chandra Bose; there is some controversy as to whether he stepped down of his own volition or by pressure from the Japanese who needed a more energetic and focused presence leading the Indian nationalists.

Bose arrived in Tokyo on June 13, 1943 and declared his intent to make an assault against the eastern provinces of India in an attempt to oust the British from control of the subcontinent. Bose arrived in Singapore on July 2, and in October 1943 formally announced the establishment of the Provisional Government of Free India. In defining the tasks of this new political establishment, Subhas declared: "It will be the task of the Provisional Government to launch and conduct the struggle that will bring about the expulsion of the British and their allies from the soil of India." Bose, taking formal command of the demoralized and undermanned Indian National Army from Rash Bose, turned it into a professional army with the help of the Japanese. He recruited Indian civilians living in Japanese-occupied territories of Southeast Asia and incorporated vast numbers of Indian POWs from British forces in Singapore, Malaya, and Hong Kong to man the brigades of the INA.

The Provisional Government of Free India consisted of a Cabinet headed by Subhas Chandra Bose as the Head of the State, The Prime Minister and the Minister for War and Foreign Affairs.

Captain Doctor Lakshmi Swaminadhan (later married as Lakshmi Sahgal) was the Minister in Charge of Women's Organization. She held this position over and above her command of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, a brigade of women soldiers fighting for the Indian National Army. For a regular Asian army, this women's regiment was quite visionary; it was the first of its kind established on the continent. Dr. Lakshmi was one of the most popular and prosperous gynecologists in Singapore before she gave up her practice to lead the troops of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

Azad Hind was recognized as a legitimate state by only a small number of countries limited solely to Axis powers and their allies. Azad Hind had diplomatic relations with nine countries: Nazi Germany, the Empire of Japan, Italian Social Republic, Independent State of Croatia, Wang Jingwei Government, Thailand, the State of Burma, Manchukuo, and the Second Philippine Republic. On the declaration of its formation in occupied Singapore, the Taoiseach of Ireland, Éamon de Valera, sent a note of congratulations to Bose. Vichy France, however, although being an Axis collaborator, never gave formal political recognition to Azad Hind. This government participated as an observer in the Greater East Asia Conference in November 1943.



To be continued in next edition of the *Stamp Chatter*

The stamps pictured in this article were printed but never issued. They are not listed in the Scott Catalogue, but they are listed in the Michel Germany catalogue.

Members' Advertisements

For Sale

Worldwide Stamps in Red Boxes
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The Self Published Book of Postcard Related Articles

By: Shav La Vigne, Email- shavlavigne@yahoo.com
6206 Cahalan Ave., San Jose, CA. 95123

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want list to Kristin
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408-267-6643 or
kristin_email@yahoo.com.



Hello to all Sequoia Stamp Club members! An extra 10% discount from my already low prices is extended to all members of the club. What do you need? What do you have to sell or trade?

Arrowstamp.com Denis@Arrowstamp.com
Denis Norrington, 415-425-6683 (phone & text)
Arrow Stamp Company, 1955-2021

Wanted

Wanted: Articles for the *Stamp Chatter* newsletter. Suggested length about 500 words with two or three pictures. Any topic related to stamp collecting or would be enjoyed by collectors. Submit your articles to sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.



**Wanted: Printed
cancels** on U.S.
First Issue Revenue
stamps (R1 to
R101). Single stamp
or entire collections.
Kristin Patterson at



kristin_email@yahoo.com or 408-267-6643.

Sequoia Stamp Club members may submit advertisements for no charge. Full details are available on page 7 of the "October-December, 2020" issue of the *Stamp Chatter* and online at <https://www.penpex.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Rules-for-Classified-Ads.pdf>