

Portuguese India Postal History and the First Issues From the "natives" to 1900

Luís and Eduardo Barreiros

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Portuguese India was the only colony to be authorized in 1869 by King D. Luís to print its own stamps in the Goa Printing House. This decision was apparently taken because British India has had postage stamps since 1854, by the geographical proximity, and the relevant commercial activity between the two territories.

Because they were printed locally using rudimentary methods, they are known as "native" stamps and were put into circulation on 1 October 1871.

These stamps deserved from the beginning the interest of collectors and merchants. Its great promotion comes with the publication in 1893 of Harrison & Napier's book edited by Stanley Gibbons.

This book that now emerges consists essentially of a first part, in which we tried to gather all the knowledge that was scattered in various sources to which other information, that the authors found throughout their research, was added. The events of Goa's postal history - the internal mail, maritime mail, postal reforms, and postal agreements, the table of rates and the postmarks and cancellations of Goa, Damão and Diu, the mail routes to British India and from there to the East and Europe are presented in chronological order.

The second part is a collection of "native" stamps, presented in chronological order of their issues, gathered in a committed way presenting the different varieties of each issue seeking to become a source of consultation and information for collectors of this fascinating period of Portuguese India.

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About the authors:

Luís and Eduardo Moreira Barreiros, twin brothers, were born in Cabinda, Angola in 1953 and lived in youth in the overseas colonies of Timor, Cape Verde, and Angola. Portuguese India was also visited. Physician doctors in Medicine by the Classic Lisbon University in 1978. Post-graduation in Endocrinology and Neuroendocrinology in 1990, teaching at the same Medical School for both undergraduate students and endocrinologists.

They began collecting stamps at the age of twelve. The first serious interest started at the age of twenty with the collection of military aerograms during the Colonial War 1961-1974. In 2005 a book was published entitled "História do Serviço Postal Militar"/"History of Portuguese Military Postal Service 1961-1974" awarded in 2006, in the USA with the Lewandowsky prize by the United Postal Stationery Society for the best book. Along the following years, many other philatelic interests emerged such as collections of the pre-stamp period of Portugal and colonies, First World War, Portugal-UK postal relations, and Portuguese India postal history, and the first issues awarded large gold FIP medals.

The authors are the editors of the Clube Filatélico de Portugal Bulletin since 2017 and have published fifty articles in several magazines in Portugal, France, United Kingdom and USA. Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London, Portuguese Philatelic Society (UK), International Society Portuguese Philately (USA), India Study Circle (UK), Military Postal History Society (USA), Association Internationale des Journalistes Philateliques AIJP (Germany) Académie Européenne de Philatélie (France). Awarded "Order of Merit" by the Portuguese Philatelic Federation

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