



Cricket developed as a child’s game in the mid-16th century. It underwent major development in the 18th century which eventually lead to its becoming England’s national sport.

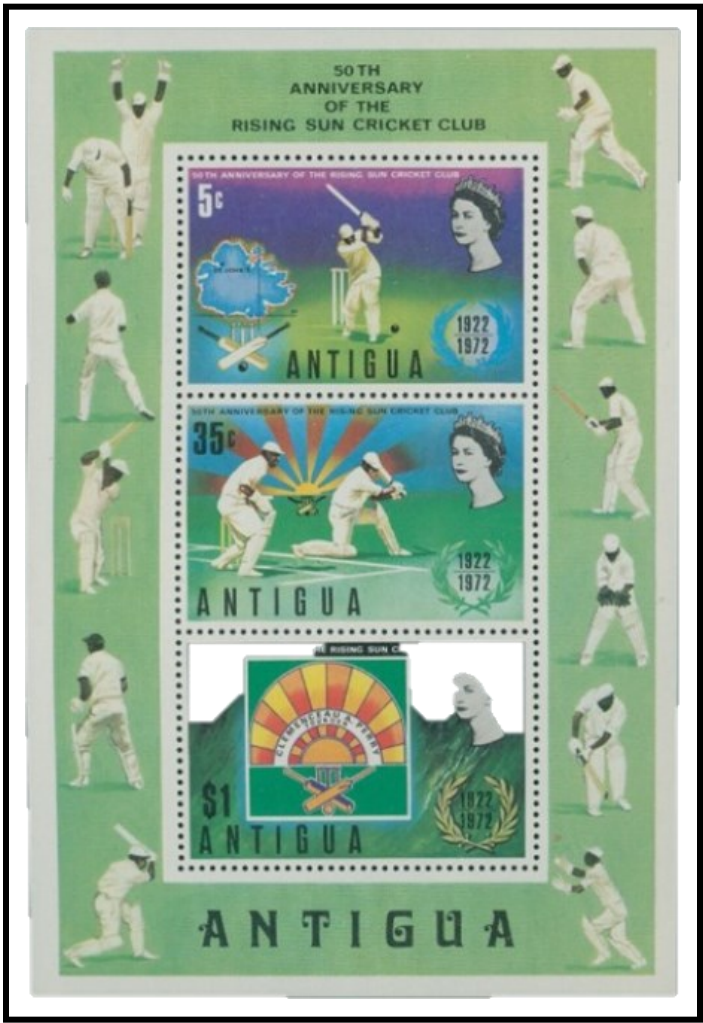
Cricket

Sport of the Empire

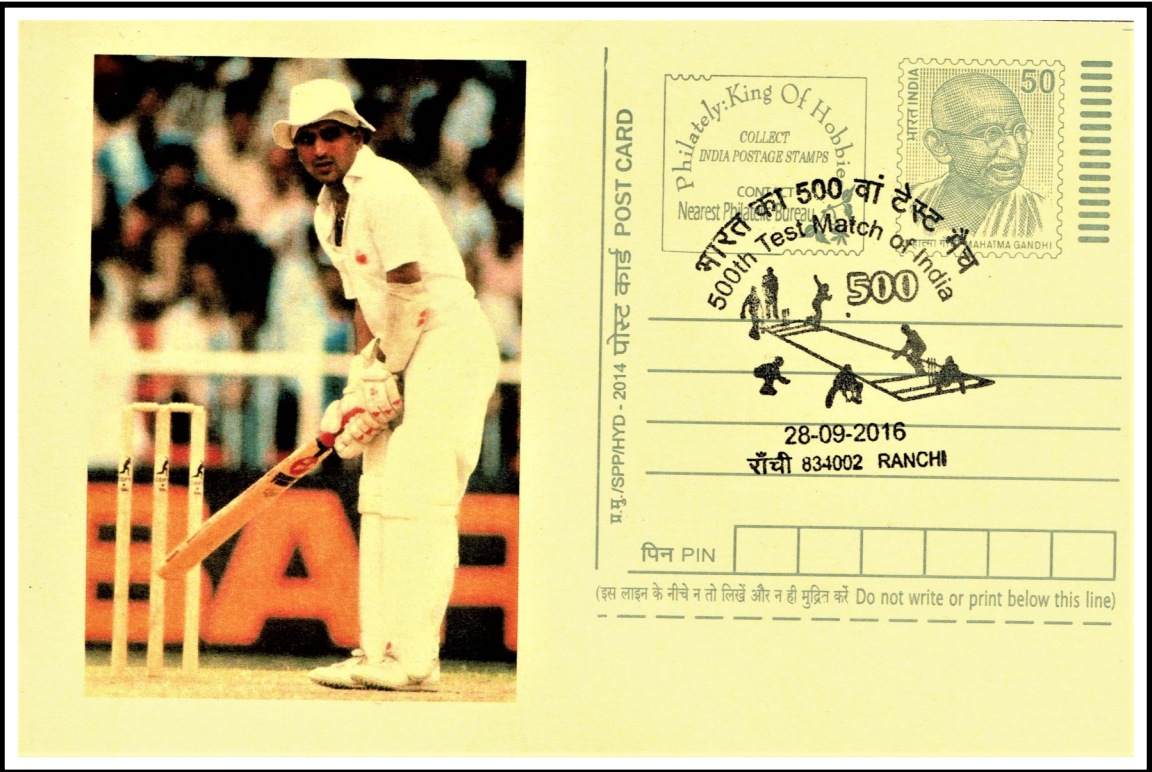
Peter Evelyn

With the expansion of the British Empire, the game followed the flag overseas and by the middle of the 19th century it had become well established in Australia, the West Indies, India, New Zealand and South Africa as well as many other outposts where it had a broad impact on many of the local cultures.

Part of cricket’s success throughout the Empire lay in the fact that it can be played in hot, dry climates where England’s other great game, soccer, can not.



Australian maxi-card (although carrying a 45c basic domestic rate stamp, the card is prepaid for delivery worldwide) showing the great Sir Donald Bradman in action against England during Australia's 1948 tour.



On September 22, 2016, India became the fourth team (after England, Australia and the West Indies) to play 500 test matches, a journey which began in 1932 at Lord’s. The event is commemorated here with a 50 paisa (the standard Inland postal rate) pre-paid post card.



15 non-English cricketers have been knighted for their service to cricket, 13 of whom come from the West Indies.

Today, cricket has more than 2.5 billion fans; is played by more than 265 million people in 104 countries; appears on stamps in 86 of those countries and is the 2nd most popular sport in the world.

