

hello From Sayeed Cassim Of Rosemere

I am a scripophilist. Scripochily is the hobby of collecting bonds and share certificates because of their historical or aesthetical importance.

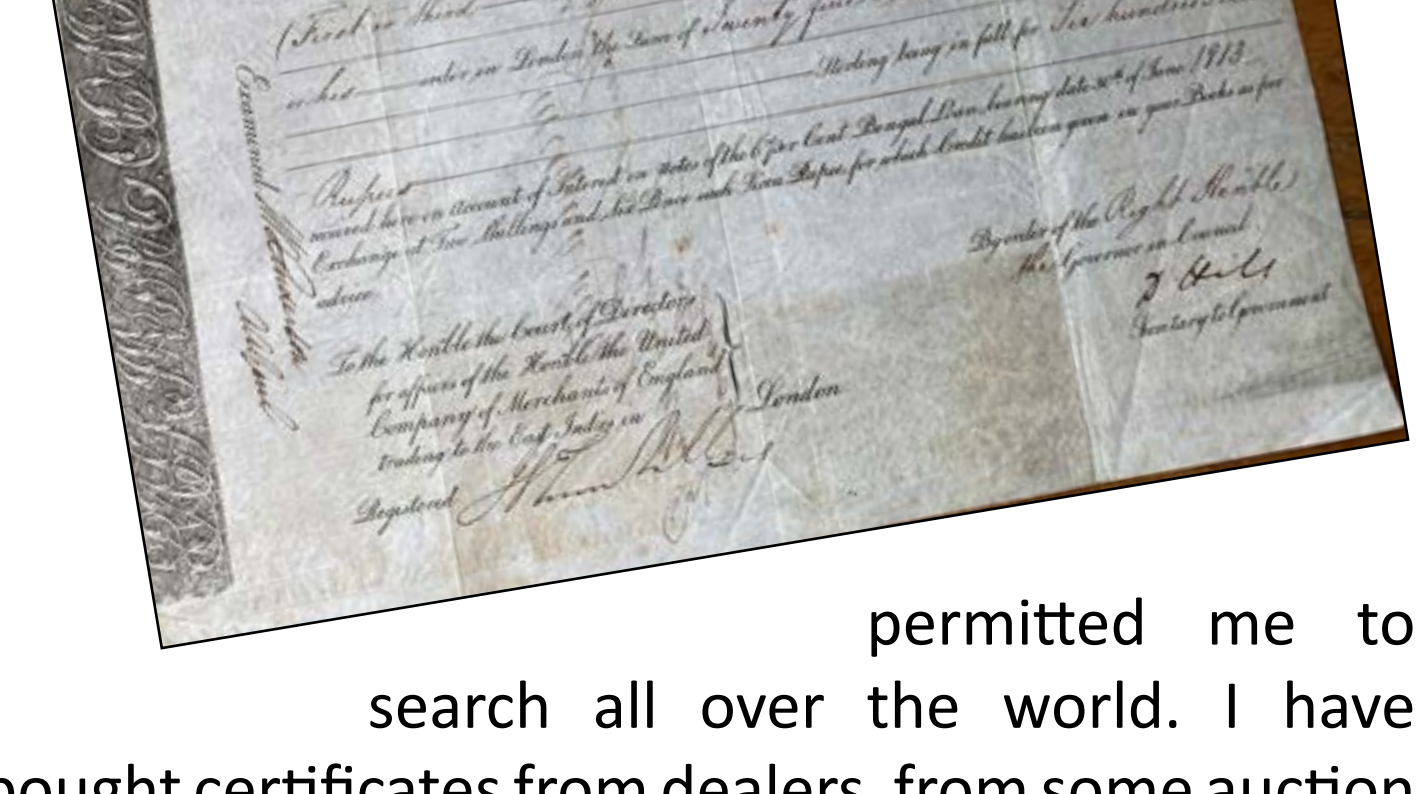
There are as many as 40,000 scripophilists in the world and I am one of them. The oldest document I hold is from 1819 which was signed at the Fort St. George Madras. This was to guarantee payment of interest due on the Bengal loan amount loaned to the East India Company by Mr. Chocapah Chetty. His name can be seen on the second line on the right hand side of the document.



Right to Left:
Sayeed Cassim, Misbah, Maleeha, Adil

On trying to search online, I found that a Chocapah Chetty served as a trustee of the Pachaippas Trust a few years later and presume that it must be one and the same person. This to my mind is the only document in my collection having a Harrington Road connection however remote!

I was introduced to this hobby by a friend of a friend, one Mr. Mahapatro many years ago. Being myself an investor in the stock markets it was love at first sight. The internet which had become quite efficient by then



permitted me to search all over the world. I have bought certificates from dealers, from some auction houses and also from ebay.com. My interest is only certificates of Indian Companies or Companies set up elsewhere in the world to exploit business interests in India.

I have had a very long association with Harrington Road having got admission to the 6th standard of the Madras Christian College school way back in 1968. Later I lived at Alsa Gardens for a few years and have now been at Rosemere on Harrington Road for the past 18 years since we purchased an apartment here. I studied at Loyola College and also trained in advanced air cargo handling from the staff college of the K L M Royal Dutch Airlines at Schipol Airport Amsterdam. I was in the logistics business for about 22 years, sold my company in 2002 and since then have been managing my own families portfolio of listed stocks and shares invested in the stock markets in India. I also run a property brokerage offering niche services to many Corporates, Consulates & HNI friends of ours.

My family consists of my wife Maleeha, an economics graduate originally from Bombay, my daughter Misbah who studied fine art at Madras, has just completed a Masters Programme in fashion marketing from the Regents University London. My son, Adil completed his BBA at Madras and then went for a few months to pursue his passion for football at a football academy at Madrid, Spain and is back at Madras now. He is a sports enthusiast and had played tennis for the Madras Gymkhana Club A team many years ago at the young age of 16. However he now plays more of football and shuttle with the latest sport of pickle ball being played often.

We held an exhibition of scripophily at the Madras Museum in 2017. It was inaugurated by the Deputy High Commissioner for Great Britain in Madras. The inaugural ceremony was very well attended and also received good coverage in the English as well as vernacular press. Subsequently we suggested that the Museum should set up a permanent display of scripophily. The Director at that time Dr. Jagannathan IAS, took a lot of interest and the display was set up with gifted certificates from our family and a few enthusiasts from different parts of the world. This display is at the fully air conditioned philately department of the Madras Museum at Pantheon Road.

Good certificates are hard to find as very few were printed, maybe as low as a hundred certificates for some companies with a maximum of a few thousand. These were held by the Maharajas, Aristocrats many Britishers and the rich. This as compared to currency notes and stamps which were printed probably by the billion or even more and could be acquired by just about anyone.

These certificates speak volumes for themselves and we can know not just the name of the company, what activity it was involved in, how much its share capital was, who the directors signing the certificate were, who the allottee was etc. Many of them also had some lovely calligraphy. Certificates often had the profession of the holder. To see a certificate with "gentleman", "farmer", "widow", "spinster" and even "life spinster" is not uncommon.

I would be happy to help anyone interested in this hobby to start a collection.