



SIPA

Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

Vol 1 No. 1

July 1980

Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

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Your address

Members are requested to notify any change in their address immediately to the Secretary of our Association.

The views contained in the articles published are the author's own and not necessarily those of the Association.

Dear member,

With pleasure we bring to you the first issue of SIPA bulletin of our association for which all of you have waited so long.

It is no doubt a humble beginning, but you will agree that it is a worthy beginning. With your whole hearted co-operation and support, the bulletin can grow bigger and more useful with time.

Our present intention is to bring out this bulletin as a bimonthly, commensurate with its reception and the economics of its publication we can increase its frequency in due course.

The aim of this bulletin is to keep the members of the South India Philatelists Association who could not attend the regular, ordinary monthly meetings, informed of the philatelic news and events regularly; to promote interest among junior philatelists by furnishing useful informations; to bring out the hidden talents of the young members by publishing their contributions and to learn from the studies of the seniors by publishing their articles.

We welcome without reserve and at all times contributions and suggestions from the members for the continuous improvement and successful growth of the SIPA Bulletin.

Philatelically yours,

The Editor.

PREPARATION OF A THEMATIC EXHIBIT

M. T. KARUNAKARAN

Exhibitions :

During the past decade India has been making rapid strides in the field of Philately. In recent years Philatelic exhibitions were organised at state and national levels at various centres in India. For the first time an International Philatelic exhibition comprising of entries from Asian Countries only, was held at Bangalore during 1977. In due recognition of the enormous and very real interest in Philately evidenced in India, the beginning of this year saw the first International stamp exhibition under FIP patronage, held at New Delhi. This was an historical event. The exhibition was inaugurated by the President of the Indian Republic. It may be proudly stated here that Indian Philatelists have not lagged behind much, in the sharing of prizes for their exhibits. This augurs exceedingly well for the future and further development of Philately in India.

Every stamp collector must consider this hobby as an art and strive to make it meaningful and interesting. Mere collection of a heap of stamps will not give them as much delight as a few of them logically and thematically arranged and presented would provide.

When one is sure that he has enough material and studied them well, must try to mount them in album sheets with suitable write up and put them up in an exhibition. If the exhibit is properly done, it may get appropriately rewarded and it will be an achievement in the pursuit of the hobby.

General Classification :

Commonly the exhibits are invited for the competition under the following classification for the Philatelic exhibitions in India.

1. National Class: (This includes India-classics; pre-independence; post Independence; Indian States-conventional and Feudatories; India-used abroad; India-special cancellation or Research collection.
2. Asia (excluding India)

3. Europe
4. Rest of the world
5. Postal history (including pre-Philately, cancellation, compaign and FPO covers etc)
6. Postal Stationery
7. Aerophilately
8. Literature
9. Maximaphily
10. Thematics

Thematic Classification :

In this article an attempt is made to discuss the thematic classification in philately and the logistics in the preperation of thematic exhibits. Dictionaries define the word theme as; subject of discourse, composition, conversation topic etc; the adjective thematic therefore means, belonging to constituting a theme.

Thematic arrangement of stamps is considered to be easily approachable in the field of Philately by new comers, in modern times for the following reasons.

a) Since the issue of 'Penny black' and 'Two pence blue' by Great Britain in 1840 over 700 Governments have issued postage stamps.

b) More than 2,00,000 postage stamps have so far been issued in the world, which is quite formidable for any one to collect.

c) During the era of colonialism the designs of the stamps were few. They were normally confined to ruling monarchs or national heroes.

d) In recent years stamps bear a wide variety of designs. They depict national, international, historical, geographical, scientific and biological characteristics. These designs are becoming increasingly interesting.

e) A thematist in the field of Philately has a vast and rather unlimited scope of themes to choose.

In fact in the modern days thematic presentations are gaining more ground and due attention in international exhibitions.

Preparing a thematic exhibit :

The following steps are advocated in preparing a thematic exhibit of stamps.

The first and foremost step is to choose **your theme**. This may not be as simple as it appears. But to tackle it, the collected and accumulated material must be sorted out and arranged in different stock books. Such classification may comprise various groups such as birds, animals, ships, aeroplanes, flowers, plants, sceneries, buildings, paintings, personalities etc., Each such sorted out group should then be studied in great details,

The **desiderata** for the selection of the theme to be exhibited are:

- a) The participant is interested in that particular subject.
- b) The participant possesses adequate general knowledge in the subject.
- c) The possession of sufficient material on hand.
- d) The possibility of obtaining easily additional material from approachable sources.

The above desiderata are accomplished by perusing books and literature pertaining to the theme chosen. Such studies besides making the subject interesting widens ones knowledge in regard to relevant details on the subject. The stamp catalogues may be referred for obtaining adequate and upto date particulars of stamps connected with the theme selected. This is very important as it will enable to make earnest attempt to obtain many missing links in the collection. By and large philatelists constitute a class by themselves. They are keen on taking lively interest in each other's work and do not hesitate to have a frank discussion and offer mutual help. It is always useful and pay rich dividends to be a member of a local Philatelists club or association. Exchange clubs and dealers in stamps may be contacted to augment ones requirements.

Title for the theme :

The next step after the selection of the theme to be exhibited is to choose a suitable title for the theme. The title should be somewhat interesting. It should not be dry and simple such as 'birds', 'ships', 'bridges' etc. For the theme birds, titles such as 'long legged birds', 'Migratory Birds', 'Aquatic birds' may be more interesting. Titles such 'From log to icebreakers', 'Ships and wars' and 'Ships and explorers' will be more interesting than the title 'Ships'.

Planning in the preparation :

After ensuring one has the required material and accessories and the knowledge to exhibit the theme selected by him, the actual planning in the preparation of the exhibit has to be taken up. Availability of adequate material to represent ones theme is of utmost importance. Sub-classification of the main theme if necessary according to the availability of material has to be thought of. A rough schematic sketch may be prepared.

The next step is to decide the number of pages or sheets to be allotted to the subject. Normally it may be about 80 album sheets. While making this preliminary estimate of the allotment of sheets for the exhibit, the exhibitor must also formulate ideas as how best his exhibit may be re-arranged to a lesser or larger number of sheets whenever necessary. It is easier to increase than to reduce the number of sheets after the exhibit is prepared.

Arrangement :

The next step is the arrangement of stamps in stock book pages or dummy sheets of the same size of the album sheets. Album sheets are to be used for the mounting of the actual exhibits. The arrangement should be such as to clearly illustrate the theme selected. Intermixing of other ideas with the theme selected should be avoided at all cost.

The next step is to prepare rough writeup matter on separate dummy sheets. As introduction is always a part and parcel of an exhibit, It must be brief, precise and relevant

to the theme presented. The introduction is presented usually in the first sheet of the exhibit. The write up for the other sheets should be very simple and sharp and need not contain philatelic details like catalogue numbers, perforations, methods of production, water make etc. It should be strictly confined to the theme. Irrelevant information should be avoided. New entrants are well advised to seek the guidance of senior and experienced philatelists in the preparation and presentation of exhibits.

Merits :

It may be borne in mind that the exhibits are judged on the merits of following points.

1. The theme or the story that is presented through the stamp.
2. The originality and neatness of preparation of the exhibit.
3. The condition and coverage of material presented.
4. Evidence of topical knowledge of the theme.

Write-up :

The judges have very limited time to study the exhibits. It is therefore not possible for them to go through all the writeup. They only scan the exhibits and study the writeup, only when they need to checkup.

The next step is the arrangement of the stamps in the album sheet, duly inserting the write up matter. The writeup should normally be done before the actual mounting of the stamps. The stamps should be so arranged as to give a symmetrical and pleasing look by taking into account their colour, size, variety etc. Sixteen album sheets 9"x11" size are normally exhibited in one frame. These sixteen sheets when viewed together in one frame should present a well balanced appearance. It has been stated earlier that the writeup should normally be done before the actual mounting of the stamps after marking their pre-arranged location in the album sheets. This procedure will prevent the risk of damage of stamps during the writeup. This will also avoid the removal or remounting of stamps which is another cause of damage to the stamps and the album sheets as well.

The write-up should be in black ink. The handwriting should be small and legible. Type written and stencil writeups are also accepted. Bold letters with artistic decorations etc, for the write up should be avoided. This will distract ones attention from the stamps which are the real exhibits. Stamps should be prominently displayed. Non philatelic materials like pictures and photographs should be avoided.

However other philatelic materials such as first day covers, pictorial cancellations etc. connected with the theme may be included.

Presentation :

A good cogent and neat presentation of a subject solely with the aid of stamps will get more points in an exhibition than a thematic exhibit clubbered up with unnecessary writeup and estraneous pictures and blow ups.

Originality in the choice of the title and uniqueness in presentation should be the guiding factors in preparing an exhibit.

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POST CODE

The Postal administration of the Federal German Republic first introduced to the world the Post Code on Nov. 3, 1961. Since it helped speeding the delivery of mail, many other postal administrations in the world recognised the advantage and adopted the similar system.

In India Post Code was introduced on 15-8-1972. The type of code used is in six figures as the last item of address.

Society Library

Mr. K. Prasad, Hon. Secretary of our Association will keep the library of our Association at his residence at No. 43, Varada Muthiappan St., Madras-1. Members who are desirous of utilising it may please contact him.

PHILATELIC BUREAU, MADRAS

The present Post - Master General Thiru P. S. Ragavachari like his predecessors has been interested in Philately and is very active in promoting it. In fact one can notice in the Philatelic Bureau of Anna Road Post Office, the measures that have been taken up in this respect.

1. The Philatelic Bureau has been airconditioned and remodelled to make one feel pleasant as well as to keep the philatelic items safe from heat and moisture.

2. Philatelic items like stamps, F.D.Cs., Pictures cards, Souvenir sheets etc. are regularly issued at the counter on all the working days from 10-00 A.M. to 5-00 P.M. without a break.

3. News bulletins etc., received or displayed on the notice board regularly.

4. Sufficient space has been allotted for Philatelists to exhibit portions from their collections.

5. The monthly meeting of our association is permitted to be conducted in the Philatelic Bureau every second Sunday of the month.

6. A deposit system has also been introduced for the benefit of customers to get Philatelic items regularly without any difficulty and dissatisfaction.

The executive Committee of our Association expresses thanks to the Post Master General for his efforts in promoting philately.

Member Philatelists :

You can now exhibit your collection in the Philately Bureau

The philately bureau in Madras has now provided space (area for 32 album sheets or 2 frames) for the philatelists to exhibit their collections for ten days at a time. Member philatelists are requested to utilise this opportunity to gain experience or to guide the juniors,

Those who are interested may please contact the secretary of our Association.

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TIT BITS

1. In 1871 Peru issued 5 Centavos stamp depicting a locomotive intended for use on mail carried on a newly opened railway between Lima, Callao and Chorrillos and is claimed to be the first commemorative stamp.

2. The first 'Split' was of two pence blue of 1840, created in 1841, by the firm of solicitors at Lincoln, who cut some of the 2d stamps into two halves and used each half for 1d.

3. The world's first adhesive stamp was in the form of an upright rectangle, but in the years that followed and upto this time stamps have been issued in so many sizes and shapes. The first circular stamp came from British Guiana in 1850. The first triangulars were issued by the Cape of Good hope in 1852.

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