



# SIPA

## Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

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Bimonthly

### SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

#### South India Philatelists' Association

##### *Silver Jubilee Celebration:*

The committee is pleased to announce that a grand **Tea Party** will be hosted by the association to all the members on the 30th December '81, as a fitting finale to the silver jubilee year. To ensure the number of members who would be present at the tea party and to avoid wastage, it has been resolved to collect a nominal sum of Rs. 5 - per member in advance. The venue will be Jayam Kalyana Mandapam No. 29, Cenotaph Road, 1st Street, Teynampet, Madras-600 018. (SIET Bus Stop, Near L. R. Swamy). Members are requested to participate in large numbers and make the occasion a grand success. They are requested to remit the amount to the association on or before 26-12-'81.

G. BALAKRISHNA DAS,  
*Hony. Secretary.*

#### TANAPEX '81

##### TAMILNADU PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

24-12-81 to 27-12-81

The fourth State-level Philatelic Exhibition of Tamilnadu is being organised by the Postmaster General, Tamilnadu Circle, from the 24th December 1981 to 27th December 1981. The Exhibition will be known as "TANAPEX-81." The previous State level philatelic Exhibitions were organised in Tamilnadu in 1973, 1975 and 1978.

##### Venue:

The Venue of the Exhibition is "DHARMA-PRAKASH" on Raja Annamalai Road, Madras-600 034, in the heart of the City of Madras. The spacious halls may accomodate about 500 Philatelic frames. A few stalls may also be allotted to dealers selling Philatelic items during the periods of the exhibition. The rent for each stall will be Rs. 500/- for the duration,

#### Editorial:

*It is really a good sign for the speedy spread of philately in this region that a descision has been taken to start a school of Philately by the Posts and Telegraphs Department at Madras, coinciding it with the Children's Day (Nehru Birth Day.)*

*The recent publication of an article on stamp collecting in a Tamil Weekly had brought in a number of letters to SIPA from persons all over India, asking numerous questions. They were all really interested in the hobby. Most of them were without even the fundamental knowledge of the hobby. Individual explanation and publication of articles in the bulletin are of not much use to them. They have to be taught directly.*

*A good number of schools in Madras and elsewhere are having philatelic clubs: still only a few get correct coaching and training in this hobby. This only suggests that even those who are put in-charge of such clubs should be requested to attend the Philatelic workshop along with their school children.*

*Philately of the modern days with all its diversified subjects can impart abundant knowledge and it needs only to be introduced in the school curriculum as a subject with a special class to teach those interested.*

*SIPA congratulates the Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu circle for his efficacious endeavour and offers full co-operation for the success. It also prays starting of such work shops in Madurai, Trichy and Coimbatore in the first stage itself.*

#### Souvenir:

*As attractive and informative Souvenir into be issued on 24-12-81 synchronising with the inauguration of the Exhibition.*

#### Special covers and Cancellation:

*Differently designed attractive special covers with matching cancellations will be issued on each day of the Exhibition. Orders for cancelled covers and souvenir can be placed on the Philatelic Bureau, Madras-60 002.*



## At our Monthly Meetings :

**September :** 32 Members were present. Shri Madan Mohan Das gave a display talk on 'SLOGAN CANCELLATION'. He exhorted members to take up the collection which could be started from the waste paper basket and that a fund of knowledge and information could be gained. He also gave a display talk on 'ADVERTISEMENT STATIONERY'.

Shri G. Balakrishna Das narrated his visit to Madurai on the occasion of the opening of Philatelic Bureau there. Apart from him, few other local members displayed their exhibits on that day as an added attraction. Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Shri C. M. Stephen, who inaugurated the function gave a speech on various aspects of Indian Philately and favoured the opening of schools of Philately all over the country.

**October :** 40 members were present. Shri G. Balakrishna Das narrated how an interview on stamp collecting with him and Shri M. T. Karunakaran came to be published in a popular tamil magazine 'ANANDA VIGADAN'. The article generated a great amount of interest in philately amongst the juniors and more than 700 letters were received both by the Association and the Philatelic bureau evincing interest about the activities of the association. More than 100 persons have already become members.

Shri V. N. S. Rau announced the hosting of Tanapex, by the P & T Dept. in December last week at Dharmaprakash for four days and exhorted the members to participate in large numbers. He requested members to come forward and contribute articles so that a special column for juniors could be introduced in the SIPA Bulletin. Shri G. Madan Mohan Das gave an interesting talk on the benefits of becoming member of a stamp society. One could exchange stamps, refer the catalogues, read the books, borrow magazines from the association and benefit from the experience and the advice of senior Philatelists. He also opined that by devoting a Saturday evening exclusively for the juniors in a month, the senior philatelists could help them by giving advice regarding; how to mount, write up, what to collect etc.

**November :** 42 members were present. Shri V. N. S. Rau was in the Chair. The Chairman greeted Shri K. C. Veeraraghavan, one of our very active members who had completed 60 years of age and the members present joined in wishing him many more happy returns.

The chairman made a brief speech on the preparations under way for Tanapex-81 and requested members to participate in large number and make it a grand success. He further said that a national level philatelic exhibition would be likely to be held at Bombay in 1982 and in that connection an organising committee was already formed.

Several new members introduced themselves and Shri V. N. S. Rau welcomed them and gave encouragement and advice and requested them to make best use of their membership of the association. Shri K. K. Verma of the Amritsar philatelic club gave a talk on the formation and growth of their club and its activities. He expressed his appreciation of the way in which the SIPA conducted its meeting.

Shri S. D. Kulkarni, postmaster, Anna Road post office gave a detailed talk on the various aspects of Tanapex-81 and requested the association to lend its hand for the success of the exhibition. He narrated his experiences over the decades as to how the same old people continued to be philatelists while others who started collecting stamps left the hobby soon. A workshop on philately was originally started by him when he was at Hyderabad. He was at first ridiculed that only school children from English medium schools were given the opportunity. But the fact was that separate workshops were conducted in Urdu for Urdu medium school children and in Telugu for children from Telugu medium schools. After his departure from Hyderabad, one of the leading philatelists in Hyderabad Shri Ganesan took upon himself the noble task of conducting workshops in philately by contacting various schools regularly. Similarly a workshop would be inaugurated on the 14th November '81, coinciding with the children's day and a number of schools which have registered themselves with the philatelic bureau have been asked to send two students each for the same. Few more such workshops were planned before the Tanapex-81. A novel feature of the Tanapex-81 would be a special section open for competition by the schools. A rolling shield and 3 cash prizes have been instituted to encourage the hobby in schools.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das made announcements about new issues. He added that on the 14th November on the occasion of the children's day, exhibits on Nehru and children would be displayed in the fourth floor of the Anna Road Post office,

K. PRASAD

Hony. Secretary.



## ROCKET MAIL

(From the talk of **Mr. D. N. Jatia** at the meeting of the Astrophilately commission at Lucerne on the 22nd March '81.)

The flight of livestock can be considered as the precursor of the events that followed, like dog Laika's journey into space and thereafter man's landing on the moon. Smith named the rocket after David Ezra. It was specially constructed with wings or stabilising fins on either side having a downward curve, with the tail fin straight. For adequate ventilation, two orifices were provided to permit air into the 'passenger' chamber. It was a fine rocket experiment, first in the world to achieve transportation of animate objects. One of his rocket experiments from Sikkim, fired on September 28, 1935, also carried a cock-bird and missives. The rocket was named SIKKIM and was despatched from the Gangtok Telegraph Office Compound.

On June 9, 1936, when a large area was affected by floods, he tried a telescopic type rocket which could expand or reduce. It contained rice, dal and chillies for the marooned village in Dhapa, east of Calcutta. He used a similar telescopic type of rocket on September 21, 1936, with three compartments, over another flooded area in the southern suburbs. This rocket had the unique distinction of carrying a live snake that was called "Miss Creepy" and an apple to provide sustenance during her trip. The rocket moved up, leaving a trail of smoke and went out of sight. It later glided down and skimmed over a deep pool before it got into a brushwood. It was retrieved and, on opening, the snake leaped out, while the other contents remained intact. The rocket was named after 'John Winterton'. Those with a scientific bent of mind thought that these rocket experiments of Smith were a stepping stone to future inter-planetary travel, and valued the envelopes as token of future progress.

Not content with experiments over flooded areas, Smith carried out his experiments on using rocket as a means of conveying mail across mountainous terrains in Sikkim. The rockets were mostly made up of metal, bullet-headed, streamlined with gliding vanes, and with stabilizing fins. The behaviour of the rockets as they passed through the rarified mountain atmosphere added knowledge to detect faults and errors, and to rectify them. The rockets crossed a wide ravine and negotiated through stiff cross currents and atmospheric pressures. A rocket, shot from the ridge on the

road to Tibet, went into the open sky without a diviation and landed a mile and a quarter away. Two rocket mail firings, carrying in all 370 messages, in this area gave great satisfaction. The Sikkim government and the Maharaja extended a warm support to Smith. Two series of Rocketgram Stamps were released, and as a fitting conclusion to his successful and brilliant achievements in Sikkim, Princess Pemtsidon, daughter of the Maharaja, despatched a rocket on October 4, 1935 with 137 messages from the Gangtok Telegraph Office compound, autographing many of them intended for distant countries.

Smith also celebrated symbolic events and dates by firing rockets. At the request of the Calcutta Press, a special rocket experiment was staged on February 28, 1935. One small and two gigantic (18 feet long and weighing 14 lb. each) rockets were fired. To solemnize the Royal Silver Jubilee Celebration, a ship-to-shore rocket was fired on March 23, 1935 at the Diamond Harbour. A coronation Rocket, of about 7 ft, was launched on May 12, 1937. It sped off fast against a stiff upper wind and landed about a mile away. The First Xmas Relief Rocket was a donation from Mrs. Paganini, wife of Dr. Robert Paganini of Switzerland. The lady had great love for the poor. It was fired on the morning of December 25, 1938, and it bore a cachet "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all men."

At the All India Jamboree Camp (1937) at Delhi, in which 4,000 boy-scouts and girl guides attended, 8 propaganda rockets were altogether fired. On February 3, 1937, 1,500 messages of welcome to the Viceroy and Lord and Lady Baden-Powell were distributed, after a march-past, in two shots. As the scouts collected at the Jamboree, the rockets burst in the air scattering the messages. Lady Baden-Powell, the world's Chief guide, herself fired a Propaganda Rocket on March 2, 1937 at the Bengal Girl Guides Rally. Lady Dorothy Arther, Provincial Guide Commissioner, also fired another rocket. Both together distributed 3,000 messages. Five mail rockets were also fired during the Jamboree. The first one, carried both ordinary as well as official Jamboree covers, while other mail firings carried only Jamboree official covers and cards identifiable by the Jamboree crest printed on the left side of the items in blue, red, gold, and grey. The mail-carrying rockets covered a distance of over a mile and contained mail for all over the world. After the letters



were transported by rocket, they were posted at the Jamboree Post Office. The sale proceeds were allocated to various Scout funds.

Now came train itself, measuring 7 feet 2 inches, to claim that it was the first Rocket Train flight in the world. The successful flight took place on September 22nd 1937. The train was christened after "Herbert E. Barber" and consisted of a control and parcel cabin, a passenger saloon, dining car, and a mail van, all connected. The passengers were Mr. & Mrs. Mousie (Two mice) with a small bottle of brandy to fortify them! The dining car had Long John Wisky (a sample size), packets of tea, cheese and sugar, while the mail van had 200 postcards. This was fired by J. L. Winterton, President of the Indian Airmail Society.

Earlier the same day, a pilot Rocket train called "Eric-Cyn" with three compartments broke away in mid-air. This accident evoked some unfavourable comments. But to Smith it was a boon, for he got an unexpected line of thought from the erratic flight. Eric Cyn with one compartment was re-christened "Boomerang" and, true to its name, after leaving the firing rack for 200 yards, it took a curve to the right and glided back and landed only 25 yards from the rack. The Boomerang effect, hitherto considered impossible, led to many possibilities for exploration and the next Boomerang was indeed a success. It shot forward, turned slowly forming a circle and, while returning towards the firing point on a glide, struck the foliage of a tree. It was found in perfect condition on recovery. The prospect of developing the Boomerang into a weapon for war was the imminent reaction.

Experiments with war Rockets were carried out from September 19, 1939 to September 26, 1941. A complete list of firings is not available; many of the firings did not carry any mail or souvenirs, though many others contained identification marks, dates, inscriptions and Smith's signature. These experiments were carried out in Fort William and nearby places which had military establishments then, and it is believed they were some what officially sponsored. In all 58 experiments on war rocket's were made, including two on Parachute war Rockets. Two trials of Rocket Photography made at Behala on July 17, 1940 were extremely significant and interesting. The rockets carried a camera and one missive with the primary intention of taking a photograph while the rocket was in the air. Both attempts were a failure, but provided enough evidences of what the world expected to achieve in this century.

Stephen Smith thus had a dogged perseverance and dedication. His infinite capacity to make advances in rocketry was marvellous. He knew of things to come. It is, however, sad to see all the efforts Smith made to make both ends meet, as he had virtually to beg by selling his souvenirs. Had not Sir David and Lady Ezra come out to help him, many of the flights would not have taken place at all. The fruits of his labour are being reaped to day by his admirers, who were then bold enough and far-sighted to collect the covers, judged from the prices they are fetching to-day.

In the annals of the history of Rocket Mail in India, Mr. Stephen Hector Taylor-Smith will live for ever.

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(By Courtesy 'SIGNET')

**Mr. S. GANESAN, Director.**

### **Indian Institute of Philately, Hyderabad**

#### **Informs :**

Indian Institute of Philately, Hyderabad has issued the first Maxim Card on the occasion of the release of "BELLARY RAGHAVA" postage stamps on 31st October 1981 with the kind co-operation of Andhra Pradesh Nataka Academy. The blank card costs Rs. 1- while the same with the stamp and First day cancelation of the birth place viz. Tadpatri will cost Rs. 1.35 plus actual postage. Only limited quantity of cards are available with the Director Mr. S. Ganesan LIC Divisional Office Hyderabad 500 463 to whom all indents with appropriate remittance are to be placed. Since limited quantity of cancelled cards are available supply will be made on the "First come First served" basis.

#### **New Members Please Note :**

Since September last more than 200 members have joined the South India Philatelists, Association SIPA while thanking them wishes to inform that for want of space in the bulletin it has been proposed to publish their addresses in a separate list during January 1982.

#### **Amritsar Philatelic Club :**

A leading Philatelic Club of India, will hold its 6th Annual Stamp Exhibition known as AMPEX-81 from 25 - 27 December, 1981 at Amritsar. A beautiful Souvenir cum special number of Club's monthly magazine will be brought out. It will contain informative articles by eminent authors and will be worth preserving. Attractive multi coloured covers on Rotary Scouting IYDP themes will be brought out to commemorate the event. P & T will provide pictorial cancellations.



## PHILATOKYO '81 - AWARDS

Shri M. G. Pittie, a life member of our Association who had been to Japan as India's Commissioner at Philatokyo '81 has informed that the following awards have been won by Indian Exhibitors at the exhibition.

### Prix D'Honour :

P. Gupta ... Nepal

### Large Gold Medal with Special Prize :

S. B. Kothari ... Early India 1900

### Large Gold Medal :

S. N. Poddar ... Pre-Independence India

G. C. Jain ... Indian Feudatory States

P. Gupta ... Cochin State

P. Gupta ... Indian Postal Stationery

M. G. Pittie ... Hyderabad State

### Gold Medal :

M. A. Nayeem ... Literature

### Vermeil Medal with Special Prize :

Mrs. S. Bhateja ... Pre-Independence India

P. Gupta ... India Letter Markings

M. G. Pittie ... Convension States

### Vermeil Medal :

M. C. Sukhani ... Bhopal at State

Y. Kumar ... Postal History of Jaipur State

R. K. Sarawagi ... Brahamini Dak of India

### Silver Medal :

A. Bose ... Nepal

S. B. Kothari ... Post Independence India

M. Nahar ... Holkar (Indore State)

R. A. Malavia ... Sorath State

### Silver Bronze Medal :

D. Shah ... Gwalior State

B. Binani ... Flags

D. S. Virk ... Literature

### Diploma :

G. S. Anand ... Literature

United Philatelist ... Literature

### Youth Class Vermeil Medal :

M. Deogawanka ... Pre-Independence India

### Silver Bronze with Special Prize :

G. S. Anand ... Watercrafts through the Ages

### Silver Bronze Medal :

Miss. S. A. Dorle ... Swords on Stamps

### Bronze Medal :

Miss. S. Sujata ... Architects and Builder of Modern India

N. K. Jhunjhunwala ... Expression of Eyes

SIPA congratulates Mr. M. G. Pittie and the winners,



## NEWS :

### Children's Day :

A multicolour commemorative stamp depicting a painting titled 'Toysellers' by Kumari Ruchita Sharma (Age 5) will be issued on Saturday, 14 November, 1981 on Children's Day.

### IX Asian Games :

A special postage stamp will be issued on 19 November 1981 - one year to the inauguration of IX Asian Games (19-11-82). The stamp shows the covered stadium at Rajghat.

### India International Trade Fair :

On the occasion of the India International Trade Fair to be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14 November to 4 December 1981, a special cover (price 60 P.) will be issued. A special cancellation will also be provided at Sanchar Mandap during the period of the Fair.

### Rajpex - 81 :

The fourth Rajasthan Philatelic Exhibition 1981 (Rajpex-81) will be held from 11-14 November 1981 at Ravindra Manch, Jaipur. Secretary 'RAJPEX-81', Postmaster General's Office, Jaipur-302 001, may be addressed for further enquiries.

### Philatelic Greeting Cards :

Attractive Philatelic greetings card (cost Rs. 1 - per card with blank envelope) is available for sale at the philatelic Bureau Anna Road, P.O., Madras.

### Mahar Regiment :

A commemorative stamp on the Mahar Regiment, depicting its flag, will be released on Monday, 9 November, 1981 on the occasion of the Presentation of Colours and Reunion of the Mahar Regiment. The first day cover illustration shows a Battalion of the Mahar Regiment assaulting a hill feature some where in the Western Sector 1971 operation. Cancellation shows the emblem of the Regiment.

### Asian Pacific Postal Union :

On the occasion of the Executive Council meeting of the Asian Pacific Postal Union to be held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi from 4 November to 10 November 1981, a multi colour special cover (Price Rs. 1 -) and a special cancellation will be provided. A different slogan special cancellation will also be provided at the extension counter at vigyan Bhavan, from 5 November to 10 November on the article presented by the Philatelists and others.

*All communications relating to the Bulletin may please be addressed to Mr. M. T. Karunakaran, Hony. Editor, 'SIPA Bulletin', No. 2, III Cross Street, Jayanagar, Tambaram, Sanatorium, Madras-600 047.*

## Elite Philatelic Club :

The Elite Philatelic Club, 48, Dr. A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar Road, K. K. Nagar, Madras-600 078, celebrated its Third annual meet on the 4th of October at Madras. Mr. U. Mohan Rao Philatelist and Mr. V. N. S. Rau, President South India Philatelists' Association, Madras, were the two special invitees. Mr. S. D. Kulkarni, Post-master of Anna Road, H. P. O., the Chief guest released the Souvenir and delivered the key-note address. Mr. P. Balasubramanian, Founder Member, Proposed the Vote of thanks.

The Chief guest Mr. S. D. Kulkarni while speaking appreciably of the efforts of the Elite Philatelic Club in the spread of Philately, spoke from the first hand knowledge, the achievements of the Postal Services since the merger of the state with the Indian union, he dwelt generally with the early history of the Hyderabad stamp and transit of mails during the Police action in Hyderabad.

Shri Mr. V. N. S. Rau in a brief speech complemented Mr. S. D. Kulkarni on the lucid elucidation regarding the transit of Mails during that difficult period and recalled his own impressions and spoke about the carriage mail between Raichur and Bolaram and other military outfits, and the letters bore no stamp of neither the Indian nor the Hyderabad, but were only signed by the Army Officers stationed and despatched through special envoys. He also recalled stalwarts like Bennet, Major Marcoolyn, Colcox, Ashrof, Dr. Nayeem, and last but not least M. G. Pittie and their services to philately.

The following members were elected as office bearers for 1981-82; Mr. A. Ravooof President Mr. S. Mahalingam, Vice-President; Mr. D. H. Rao, Secretary; Mr. T. Raja Rajan, Joint Secretary; Mr. V. Srinivasan, Treasurer; and Mr. S. Ramaswamy, Mr. U. Mohan Rao, Mr. G. Hemichand Chopra and R. Sampathkumar Committee Members.

The function ended after the election of the office bearers :

### National Fire Service College:

To mark the Silver Jubilee of National Fire Service College, a special cancellation will be provided on Tuesday 3 November 1981 at Nagpur G.P.O.

### Sri Sarda Math Dakshineswar Temple :

On the occasion of opening of Sri Sarda Math Dakshineswar Temple on 6 November 1981 at Calcutta, a special cancellation will be provided at the Calcutta G.P.O.

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