



SIPA

Bulletin

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Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At our Monthly Meetings :

August '81: 34 Members were present. Shri V. N. S. Rau thanked all the members for the grand success of the SIPEX-'81. He acknowledged the team work of Souvenir Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri U Mohan Rao. He commended the work of all those members who spared their valuable time in making the Silver Jubilee Celebrations the success, which it achieved.

Shri G Madan Mohan Das narrated in detail the events of each day of SIPEX '81. It was by far the biggest exhibition ever conducted in India by any philatelic association. The exhibits were from many parts of the country. With 5 stalls taken up by the dealers from the city and other places, it was an added attraction.

Shri U. Mohan Rao, Chairman of the Souvenir Committee thanked the members for the good support they had given, but for which souvenir collection could not have been so good. Shri D. H. Rao Chairman of the Exhibition Committee thanked the owners of the Hamid building for providing the hall, Electrical Engineers for providing and installing the necessary electrical fittings in such a short time of 2 days and also the contractors for transportation of the frames to and from the Post office and the exhibition site. He felt that instead of awarding prizes to few people, he would have been happy and so would be

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

Editorial :

Normally one would think of a lull period to follow after the culminating point that the South India Philatelists Association could reach during the month of July this year, when it conducted the SIPEX-'81 Stamp Exhibition, but it was not to be such. Actually the enthusiasm of the members has increased abundantly that many have already diverted their mind and action towards the participation in 'TANAPEX-81'. Not only their enthusiasm, the interest of so many others from all over the country have also been kindled by the publication of a 'Cover Story' item in 'Anandavikatan', a prominent Tamil weekly dated 20-9-81; of an interview with our SIPA Members, on "Stamp collecting as an useful hobby". consequent to this, phone enquiries, personal contacts and the number of letters received from those interested are very many. More than a hundred, most of them juniors have already joined the Association as new members. Since a number of them are still at the biggining stage but with enormous interest, SIPA is sincerely planning to educate and train them in the know how of philately.

SIPA is grateful to the Tamil weekly, Anandavikatan and its Sub-Editor Mr. Bala for the attractive and illuminating cover page and story which brought light to many stamp collectors.

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.

PCI NEWS:

ASCAT, The International Association of Stamp Catalogue Editors was formed four years ago in 1977, aiming to establish uniformity in the matter of definitions, symbol, code numbers and other allied subjects. The ASCAT while stressing the need for a close contact between the postal administrations in the world and stamp catalogue editors, suggests prior information about the stamps to be released in a calendar year to bring catalogues as up to date as possible. The Association is at present working on the possibility of assigning universal numbers in catalogues, rightly called ASCAT Numbers. By this it is expected, some one using a SCOTT catalogue number will be able to correspond with the user of a MICHEL or a GIBBONS catalogue with the help of the corresponding ASCAT Number.

Signet.

On the occasion of its 50th Jubilee Congress, FIP presented a commemorative booklet-number of copies: 60,000-containing a special print of the WIPA-'81 block with a golden impression "50th Congress of FIP". The booklet gives among other things a chronological list of the exhibitions organised under the patronage of FIP and the years of admission to FIP of its different members. In addition it presents a complete list of all the addresses of its members

FIP News: Signet

The India P & T Department donated for the first time a special prize to the best exhibitor at the International Philatelic Exhibition at WIPA-'81. It was a bronze statue of Ganesha cast in bronze by the hereditary metal sculptors of Kumbakonam in traditional manner

Signet:

At our Monthly Meetings (Contd. from Page 29) the participants if each one of them was given a memento. He wished that all the members could have participated with atleast one frame each, when the exhibition would have achieved its purpose.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das gave a talk on Royal wedding omnibus issues. Shri D. H. Rao wanted a very good library, unrevailed by any other association in India to be built up by our Association.

K. PRASAD, *Hon. Secretary*

SIPA LIBRARY

Acknowledgement.

The following issues of 'Topical Times' were donated by Dr. C. A. Rajagopalachari, our senior member on the 19th August '81 to the Association and the same were handed over at the SIPEX-81 valedictory function to the President of the association by the Hon'ble Minister Thiru S. Ramachandran.

- 1 March-April and July-Dec. '63
- 2 January-April & July-Dec '64
- 3 May-June & Sep.-Dec. '65
- 4 January-April & July-August '66
- 5 January-April & July-October '67
- 6 September-October '68
- 7 July-August & Nov.-Dec. '69
- 8 March-June '70
- 9 July-December '71
- 10 January-December '72
- 11 January-December '73
- 12 March-December '74
- 13 January-December '75
- 14 January-December '76
- 15 January-December '77
- 16 January to August '78
- 17 January-June & Sep.-Dec. '79
- 18 January-April & July-August '80

K. PRASAD,

Hon. Librarian.

'SIPEX-81' SPECIAL COVERS

'SIPEX-81' - Special covers: a set of 4 covers costing Rs 5/- (stamped and duly cancelled with special cancellation) are available with the Secretary, South India Philatelists, Association, No. 41, Perumal Mudali Street, Sowcarpet, Madras-600 001. Those who are interested may please contact in person or send remittance of cost and postage.

G. BALAKRISHNA DAS,

Hon. Secretary SIPA.

Elite Philatelic Club :

The Third Annual Meeting of the Elite Philatelic Club, a sister association in Madras, scheduled for 6th Sept. 1981 is now postponed to 4th Oct. 1981 due to unforeseen circumstances. This is as informed by Mr. A. Ravooof, President, Elite Philatelic Club.

ROCKET MAIL

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

In the '20s and '30s of this century, when many were considering the possibility of rocket mail, or despatching mail by an airborne body, Stephen Smith in India not only believed in the potentiality of rocket mail, but is known to have experimented—and successfully, too—with sending mail across by rockets.

Stephen Hector Taylor-Smith, to give his full name, conducted as many as 270 experiments with rocket firings—some with mail—and kept meticulous details of these attempts in his own handwriting, along with sketches. All that has been published in the *Dairy of Stephen Smith*.

Stephen Smith was born on February 14, 1891 at Shillong, in present-day Meghalaya. He was educated in St. Patrick's High School at Asansol, W Bengal from 1903. He completed his school education in 1911—the year in which India became the first country to introduce Air Mail Service.

While at school, Smith once made a rocket to transport a garden lizard across the school swimming pool. The experiment failed; the rocket burst, killing the lizard.

From lizard to letters was not a far cry. Smith was prompted to send mail across a "barrier"—quickly, safely, and economically. He sought in rockets a means of transport, during floods, landslides, and war, that can carry mail, essential articles, and even living beings. His pioneering activities and contributions towards rocket mail have now become a solid part of philatelic history.

During the second and third decade, there were several survey flights the world over, in which India was an integral participant. There was keen rivalry among the operators and the pilots. Stephen Smith joined hands with these aviators by encouraging them to carry souvenir mail. As a result of the hospitality and encouragement he extended to the operators, mail over local stages secured a place in those pioneering flights. He had by then become a popular figure and was able to hold at Calcutta on December 17, 1930 an exhibition of "First

Flown Covers", immediately after the first International Airpost Exhibition in Paris. The exhibits included items from Night Flights, Accident covers, mail flown without adhesive franking, Paris Balloons and geographical groups. Historical documents were also on display as a class. Though he was not financially strong he was ambitious and inspired to achieve his objective.

Of the 270 odd experiments he conducted, Nos 38 to 58 and 83 to 89 were held in Sikkim; those from No. 207 onwards were with war Rockets in various places, about which too he had maintained hand-drawn vivid sketches as well as descriptive accounts of both the relative success and failure of his experiments, besides some photographs of the firings and his own personal remarks. He also kept a record of the number of covers flown and lost, as well as notes where he signed the contents. These meticulous observations reveal his zeal and devotion. He was methodical in approach and analytical in his experiments. He wrote two books, "Indian Airways" in three parts, detailing famous flights associated with India and "The World Flier's Zone". He was a member of the Aero Philatelic Club of London and founded the Aero Philatelic Club of India. The late Sir David Ezra and Lady Ezra extended encouragement and financial support to his endeavours.

His initial attempts were for finding an alternative to the mail boat, and he fired rockets both on land and at sea, from near the lighthouse on Sagar Islands in the Bay of Bengal. The experiments were either from ship to shore or from shore to ship. He made several attempts including experiments at night between September and December 1934.

His first rocket was obstinate and dormant. In sheer desperation, he at last ignited it at its base, and the rocket jumped to life! He had to work with considerable handicaps. The rockets were manufactured by the Orient Fire Works Company, a local ordinary display fireworks shop, who were no experts on the line. He was disheartened when the rockets burst on many occasions. His implements were also not very effective. Ship-to-shore firing

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NEWS :

Madurai Philatelic Bureau :

Minister of Communication will inaugurate the Philatelic Bureau at Madurai Head Post Office on 6th September 1981. With the opening of Madurai Bureau, Tamil Nadu Postal Circle will have 4 Philatelic Bureaux and the total number of Bureaux in the country will be 31.

ational Wildlife Week :

P & T Department will observe wild life week by bringing out an attractive, multi coloured special cover and providing a special Slogan cancellation at all philatelic Bureaux in the country on 1st October 1981.

Shri Bellary Raghva : *a renowned stage artiste of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. A commemorative stamp depicting his portrait will be issued on 13-10-81*

World Food Day , Friday, 16th Oct 1981

A multicoloured 100 p. denomination stamp will be issued on 16th October 1981 to mark the world Food Day and cancellations will be provided at all Philatelic Bureaux.

Butter Flies : Tuesday, 20th Oct. 1981

The release of the set of 4 stamps on Butterflies, scheduled during September 1981, has now been postponed to Tuesday 20th October 1981. The set depicts the following Butterflies.

1. Northern Jungle Queen (*Sticopthalma Camadeva*) 35 p.
2. Red Lace wing (*Cethosia Biblis*) 50 p.
3. Map Butterfly (*Cyrestis Achates*) 100 p.
4. Kaiser--e Hind (*Telnopalpus Imperialis*) 200 p.

Special first day cancellations will be provided at all Philatelic Bureaux.

An Appeal

was made from a simple fishing boat which tossed with the waves at the Diamond Harbour. Often the projectile was fired from a couple of poles. Nevertheless, undaunted he worked for success. These experiments were intended to bridge a gap, so that mail could be transported across islands quickly. He is reported to have flown covers bearing cachet impressions and with vignettes attached; autographed by him or other distinguished personalities associated with his endeavours.

India had floods too often and the affected areas remained cut off and isolated without communication, food and essential medicines. Smith strived to establish links and carry materials more than messages. A parcel of 12 items including medicines sugar, tea, cigarettes and other items carried by rocket on April 10th 1935. It was the first such parcel and so created a new world record. It went across the Ranikhola river with the permission of the Sikkim government. On June 6 the same year, a rocket containing a parcel of gram, rice, salt, turmeric, cloves, and a bundle of biris (local leaf cigarettes) besides mail was shot over the Roopnarian river at Kolaghat. It landed safely 50 yards away on the riverbank opposite; yet another parcel, containing medicines (lint, epsom salt, iodine, iodox, aspirin, haliverol and bandages) and missives was sent from the same place. Another parcel rocket was fired on June 29, from Burnpur, and it contained bread, butter tablets and medicines, and missives. The same day, he created a world record by despatching livestock across river Damodar by rocket for the first ever time. The rocket carried a cock-bird and a hen. It travelled fast and landed safe, creating a great deal of excitement all over the world. It was a significant achievement in the world of progress and exploration.

(to be continued)

By Courtesy 'Signet'

Members who have not renewed their membership are requested to renew their membership immediately

G. Balakrishna Das,
Hony. Secretary, SIPA

We are happy to announce the holding of the Fourth State Level Philatelic Exhibition of Tamil Nadu in Madras. "TANAPEX-81" between 24th and 27th December, 1981 at "Dharma Prakash", Raja Annamalai Chettiar Road, Vepery, Madras. It will be gratifying to note that Tamil Nadu Circle of the P & T Department has spared no pains on previous occasions when they creditably held the prior three exhibitions and it is expected that the present fourth one scheduled to be held by the Madras Circle in December 1981 will be a standing example of the great efforts the Tamil Nadu Circle has been and is doing in the promotion of Philately actively in Tamil Nadu. The credit goes to our popular Post-master General Shri P. S. Raghavachari with his great experience in this field for the spread of Philately with the active assistance of Shri D. Parthasarathy Director of Postal Services (H Q.) and the Secretary of "TANAPEX-81" and last but not the least Shri Kulkarni Post-master Gazetted Anna Road, Post Office and a host of selfless workers of the Department sparing no pains to make the event to remember. We sincerely desire the members of our Association be he young or old in lending a helping hand to make the event a grand success.

May we request one and all of the Members of our Association and the philatelists all over Tamil Nadu to come forward to make the event—"TANAPEX-81"—a shining example of a state level exhibition to be emulated as a model one in the matter of spread of Philately not only in Tamil Nadu Circle but also all over India.

We also make a special appeal for all members of the junior section to come forward and exhibit their collections and all efforts to help them in the matter of preparation and presentation and submission of entries will be made available by the Hony. Secretaries and Senior Members of the Association and participate in a big way.

V. N. S. RAU,
President SIPA

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBERS

- 1 Mr. R. M. Kasi,
18, Jayakula St., Trichy-2
- 2 „ Gopalakrishna M. Joshi,
1613, Lingappa Chetty St.,
Coimbatore-1
- 3 „ K. Sathesh Kumar Tawker,
217, G.S.T. Road, Chrompet,
Mdras-44
- 4 „ S. L. Lakshmanan,
41-B Solapadi Subramania Chetty St.,
Shevapet, Salem-636 002
- 5 „ S. Sairam,
106, Main Road, Dindigul-624 001
- 6 „ S. Ramasundaram,
A-1/2, Race Course Colony, Madurai-2
- 7 „ M. Kumaravel, M.Com.,
Alagiyamayaki Puram Post (Via)
Adiramapattinam, Pattukottai Taluk,
Tanjore Dist
- 8 V. Sreedhar,
66, Appavoo Nagar,
Dharmapuri-636 701
- 9 „ N. Balaji,
G-23 4, H V F. Estate, Avadi,
Madras-600 054
- 10 „ V. Manoharan,
33 Appavu Gramani Street,
Ellis Road, Madras-2
- 11 „ Mohan,
K U.M. Villa, Nellikamon P O.,
Banny-689 680
- 12 „ R. Doraisami,
National Ice Factory,
94/1, S. K. Road, Ambur-635 802
- 13 „ P. Kadiravan,
43, Cristiana Amper St., Tambaram
- 14 „ V. Rajan,
New Raja Silk House
Kavala, Changanacherry-686 101
- 15 „ G. Mahesh,
S/o K. Guruswamy,
Addl. Supdt. of Police, Appavoo Nagar,
Dharmapuri-636 701
- 16 „ K. M. Raju,
9-9, Railway Station Road,
Erode-638 002
- 17 Mr. R. Ravi Kumar,
8th A Section, Govt. Higher Secondary
School Mecheri, Salem Dist.
- 18 „ T. Basker,
10, State Bank Colony, Meyyandoor,
Salem-636 004
- 19 „ R. Arumugam,
5, Arunalada Ammal Nagar,
V.O.C. Nagar, Post, Thanjavoor
- 20 „ L. N. Suresh,
X Std., Kandaswamy Kamdar
Higher Secondary School,
Namakkal-637 002
- 21 „ R. Shiva Kumar,
25, Subba Reddy Street
West Mambalam, Madras
- 22 „ B. Siahuddeen,
31, Nool Kadai St., Nagapattinam
- 23 „ R. Chezhan,
5-A, New Colony, Takkakulam,
Madurai-625 002
- 24 „ K. Sridhar,
10, Kappal Bolu Chetty St.,
Madras-600 021
- 25 „ M. Ragunatha Gupta,
6, Venkatarama Sarma Road,
Dharmapuri-636 701
- 26 „ A. R. Md. Zakir Hussain,
12/1, Kurrungu Kutti, Kandaswami St.,
Erode-638 003.
- 27 „ K. Siva Kumar
28, Sivan Koil South Street,
Kodambakkam, Madras
- 28 „ R. N. Vallinayagam,
73-Q, Thiruvaramangam Main Alwarpet,
Coonur-643 101
- 29 „ R. Helen Sunitha,
24-151, Salem Camp-636 456
- 30 „ G. Ravi, Chandran,
25/1, Mitta Ananda Rao, Street,
Vellore-4
- 31 „ V. Balasubramanian,
C-3, South Narasimhachari Road,
Dharmapuri-636 701