



SIPA

Bulletin

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At our monthly meetings:

January '82: 43 members were present. Shri V. N. S. Rau, our President was the Chairman of the meeting. He congratulated the winners of the Tanapex-81. He said that the jury of the Tanapex-81 were very much impressed with the thematic section, but not so with the exhibits of the Pre-Independence section.

Shri A. C. Thirlokmath, a life member of SIPA distributed first day covers free of cost as a token of encouragement to the junior members present. He also offered to contribute a stock book, every month as one of the prizes for the proposed competition among the juniors at the monthly meetings. It was announced that Smt. Ramanujam would take classes for juniors. The first class would start on the fourth Saturday of the month at No. 41, Perumal Mudali St., Madras-600 001.

The monthly auction was postponed to the fourth Sunday, due to the cricket test match.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das made announcements about new issues.

Shri K. C. Veeraraghavan expressed his grievance that the prospectus of the Tanapex-81 did not make any mention about the classification of awards. In reply, Shri V. N. S. Rau narrated briefly the standards of exhibitions at State, National, and International level exhibitions.

The FIP rules are followed at National and International level exhibitions. These rules are not enforced strictly at the State level exhibitions. To encourage philately, the awards are generally enlarged into various categories. We could only make suggestions to

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

Editorial :

PCI CONVENTION

In the recently concluded Philatelic Congress of India convention two of our local stalwarts Shri V. N. S. Rau, President, SIPA and Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Vice President, SIPA have been elected as President elect and Jt. Treasurer respectively of the Governing Council of the PCI.

While SIPA is proud in specially mentioning their names it equally feels glad in congratulating all those who have been elected to the Governing Council of the PCI.

In these elections to the National body it can be observed that the norm or principle followed was based on region wise distribution and satisfaction. This no doubt paves way for healthier understanding and co-operation from all the local institutions. The same pattern may be applied in the case of conducting of Philatelic exhibitions also.

Shri G. C. Jain, President, PCI in his maiden speech mentioned among certain important needs the necessity for regulating the holding of Philatelic exhibitions at district, regional and national levels. This no doubt augurs a better future and one can expect a National if not an International exhibition being conducted in Madras at the next opportunity.

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.

NEWS :

New Issues: A commemorative stamp in the denomination of 100 p, was issued on 8-2-82 on the occasion of the 12th *International Conference of Soil Science* held in New Delhi.

A multicolour stamp in the denomination of 100 p. will be issued on 2-3-82 on the occasion of 125 anniversary of J. J. School of Arts, Bombay

A commemorative stamp on *Pablo Picasso* in the denomination of 25 p. will be issued on 15-3-82. The stamp will be in multicolour depicting the painting of Picasso named "Three Musicians".

A commemorative stamp in the denomination of 35 p. will be issued on 24th March on the occasion of the *Centenary of discovery of Tubercle Bacillus*.

A commemorative stamp on 100 years of Post Office Savings Bank scheduled for release on 1st April has been postponed. The revised date is to be announced later.

Special Cancellation : A special cancellation was provided at Calcutta GPO on 3-2-82 on the occasion of Panchkalyanak Mahotsava.

A special cancellation on the occasion of International children's Film Festival and fair was provided on 11-2-82 at Calcutta G.P.O.

A special cancellation was provided on the occasion of Rotary International "One world conference" on 6-2-82 at Ashok Hotel P.O., New Delhi.

A special cancellation was provided on 15-2-82 at Panaji Post Office during the Philatelic Exhibition held by the Academy of Portuguese Language at Panaji, Goa on 14-15 February, 1982.

The P and T Department provided a special cancellation on February 20 at Mettur Dam R. S. Sub. Post Office in connection with the philatelic exhibition - Rosaphile - '82. Organised by the Rotary Club of Mettur Dam and the local branch of the Salem Philatelic Club.

The Jyothi Philatelic Club, affiliated to the Sacred Heart College, Tirupathur (N.A.) conducted a one-day philately exhibition Tirupex-82 on February 12 at Tirupathur. A special cancellation was provided on that day at the Tirupathur Head Post Office.

The P & T is providing a special cancellation on Saturday the 6th March 1982 at Kallakudi Sub Post Office on the occasion of "DALMIAPEX" Philatelic Exhibition organised by the Trichy Philatelists association and the Dalmia Enterprises.

INTRODUCTION TO THEMATIC PHILATELY

(A very exhaustive and simple note "Introduction to thematic Philately" prepared by Dr. MOROLLI, President of the FIP Thematic Commission is reproduced below - Courtesy—SIGNET)

1. Introduction :

In the last 30 years new ways have been established in stamps collecting

The most popular one is Thematic Philately in which stamps and documents are considered in a non traditional way

To collect means, in general, to put together objects of the same kind for personal pleasure, cultural interest, personal benefit.

Put together does not mean "Get and Store" each item but select and order it according to specific criteria based upon study and personal research.

Philately means collection and study of stamps and postal documents.

2. Thematic Philately

Thematic philately is based on the concept of "theme" i.e. 1. Topic. subject 2. Subject for an essay.

Ex paintings, animals, history, sports or the art in the renaissance, fishes, European history, olympic games or evolution of fine arts.

The "theme" is the only criterion for selecting stamps postal documents pertaining to the collection. i.e.

In Thematic philately country and date of issue are *not* taken into account.

Each stamp or document is placed in the collection according to the information it brings to the theme.

3. The Theme of a Collection

The theme is chosen by a philatelists according to his personal interests (profession, culture, hobby. Fun)

He is completely free No rule can be given because the main target is his pleasure, satisfaction of collecting.

Quite often the philatelist is interested to other documents (postcards, paintings, vignettes, autographs, documents, pictures, etc.) on the same theme

We ignore them all because we are describing what we consider a proper philatelic collection, built up only with stamps, postal & philatelic documents.

4. The Plan of the Collection

The plan should define the parts in which the theme has been divided.

It is like the table of contents, the index of a book.

At the sametime it has the value of a statement of intent since it lists the subjects, the collector's aims to describe in the pages of the collection.

Normally the title of the collection is a personal view of the theme: Therefore it is important that the detailed outline is fully consistent with the title.

The plan of a collection has to be logical, correct, balanced, complete.

Once the theme has been defined a more detailed outline is established breaking down the subject in parts (chapters)

This outline is called the *plan* of the collection.

For the same theme different (plans) are possible as the collector selects the most appropriate according to his culture, interest, target.

It is a great challenge to find a personal approach in both situations.

Ex. Theme: *Olympic Games*

- 1 Cronology
- 2 History of the Games (From Ancient Games)

Europe

- 1 Organisation of the European Economic Community
- 2 History of the European union

Animals

- 1 The mammals
- 2 Zoological curiosities

Botany

- 1 Plants and flowers
- 2 Ecology of the forest

Examples 1 Are following a pre existing outline

(Series of Games, Organisation, Scientific order ...)

Examples 2 Are following built up outline

(History, analysis of a situation, etc.)

5. Thematic Collections

Thematic Collections are those in which the collector *synthesizes* an idea or a theme i.e. combines all the different parts & aspects of the idea or the theme in a whole.

Introduction to Thematic Philately

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The plan is developed using stamps and postal documents, freely chosen by each collector, with a direct relation with the theme.

The plan is modified according to the research and the experience and is latter re-balanced according to the availability of material on the theme.

Types of plan : Historical, systematic, geographical, thesis

Operation Suggestions :

Define the title: Prepare the outline (ideal plan) (Personal knowledge) (Basic books of the subject). List the material available (general catalogues), (special catalogues) (checklists from magazines).

Match the material with the Plan : Review the plan : Balance : Continuity of material support : Establish the final plan.

At this moment the main activity begins :

Development in depth of the collection

= Find the right place to each item in order to realize the plan

= Find all the philatelic items which can be included in the collection

This process requires two steps :

Study the material reference on the subject (books, magazines, etc.)

The philatelic references to find all the corresponding material.

This personal, original research evaluates all the possible aspects of each point of the theme answering questions like: who? what? why? where? when? how? causes? consequences?

6. Subject Collections

The collector develops the plan according to the above mentioned approach integrating it as much as possible with thematic parts.

The material is placed according to the thematic criteria

e.g Date of the game (not date of issue)

Events during the game (not postal services)

The main effort is to balance the larger availability of material on the same subject in a thematic way.

Operating Suggestions

- + Identify and classify the material
- + Study the material from the philatelic point of view
- + Place the material according to the "Natural" plan
- + Integrate the plan in a thematic way.

At this moment the main activity begins : Study in depth of the material from a philatelic point of view, arranging it in a balanced way between thematic considerations and philatelic aspects, using all the stamps and the postal documents keeping this balance.

7. Additional Considerations

Thematic collecting means :

Freedom of choice theme, plan material

Personal decisions

Personal satisfaction & pleasure

The originality of a thematic collection depends mainly on the personal choice, new theme, new plan, new development of a popular theme rather than on funny or extravagant titles.

The size of the collection depends on the objectives of its author: It should not be a constraint for the plan: It should be satisfactory for the collector: It should consider all the material existing in the specific field.

In both cases the thematic study must be based on knowledge of the subject material related, common sense, which is the most important ingredient for success.

That means, justify each item within a balanced thematic development, stay within the theme (i.e. do not force unnecessary thematic or philatelic items) Detail a subject as required by the specific plan.

Use material directly related to the theme (i.e. do not include items just because of their commercial value). Be consistent throughout all the collection.

To achieve this Information approach, it is very useful to become a member in a thematic association. In many countries there is a national one in addition thematic groups are active for members who have the same thematic interest. They provide a lot of information as well as checklists and publications.

Visit the most important thematic exhibitions or the thematic section in a general show). It is also very useful to learn the methodology, to see similar collections, to check the material discovered by other fellows.

8. The Material :

A thematic collection is using stamps postal & philatelic documents.

The collector is welcome to use all the philatelic resources available to cover his theme without any country type of service time (date of issue).

Constraints

A. STAMPS

Many types (about 60 different types of service) ; they could be interesting because of reason of issue : main subject : secondary subject : writing : writing on the back : type of service : watermark.

- Local issues are accepted as well as national ones
- Overprint could change the thematic interest of a stamps, booklets, sheets, margins, souvenir sheets, tabs & labels attached to a stamp.

B. Postal Stationery

Many types (postcards, letters, airletters, newspapers, labels, shipping labels etc.). Information could be on the preprinted stamps : A drawing on the same side (or reverse side) of stamp : Both just the reason of issue (if no connection with above mentioned items) Type of service (war, christmas, etc.).

Additional information could be found in items like airgraphs, telegrams special covers (like Italian BLPs).

No stationery produced by the post (even "official" FDCs) can be considered in this category.

C. Cancellations

- Ordinary place (ex, UPU HQ) Date (special situation offices)
- Commemorative — tourist advertising — special services (postal trains, ships, hotels, military post, franchise, etc.)
- Meters — best condition : Postally used documents stamped according to postal fares.

D. Letters

- Prephilatelic items when the service routing postmarks are of interest for the theme.
- Normal letters when they have a special philatelic interest.

E. Others

- Cote' vue post cards exceptionally only in a very restricted way since the picture does not have any postal background.
- Maximum cards : When necessary because of special contribution to the theme (emphasis of details, etc.) must be according to the maximaphily standards and have thematic cancellation.

- Vignettes : Exceptionally, only on documents postally used.

The presence of these items is related to their contribution to the specialization of the collection.

Two basic questions :

New or used ? Answer : As you like, but be consistent. If you select used, look for light postmarks.

Full set or not ? It is up to you. But avoid too long sets anyway if you put the full set, you have to justify it (Presentation & philatelic reasons rather than thematic).

9. Material :

General Considerations

The first criterion for the choice is the relation with the theme, The second is the philatelic evaluation, (condition, quality, rarity).

- The collector should avoid any prefabricated item, private item, (postally used item which does not follow the PT rules),
- The same item can be used more than once if its contribution is needed in different positions of the collection and no other item provides the same information.
- The philatelic study of an item through essays, artist's proofs, colour proofs, etc. has to be justified by the level of the collection (no separate meaningless items) ; has to be consistent with the thematic development ; has to reflect the whole production cycle of the item.
- The same applies to blocks, strips, varieties, etc.
- In the subject collections the philatelist should choose a development approach that allows philatelic studies as a significant part of the work,
- Special rules could be implemented or guidance given to collectors as a "Consumer's reference", a protection against issues which or considered detrimental for philately.
- The international federation of philately — F.I.P. has defined the following situations as specific of detrimental issues :

Stamps not sold at the greatest number of post offices at the price of their face value.

Stamps sold in exaggerated proportions by agents outside the country.

Stamps offered simultaneously in the form of stamps, blocks, miniature sheets, perforated imperforated stamps with surtax higher than 50% of the face value (100% for fares equal or below letter rate).

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Pictorial Cancellation: A pictorial cancellation will be introduced from 9-3-82 at Mattancheri Jetty Post Office in Ernakulam (Kerala) Postal Division depicting the Magan David of the famous Cochin Synagogue situated at Mattancheri.

Exhibitions: The Third state level philatelic exhibition "Jampex-82" will be held in Jammu from 16th March to 19th March, 1982.

The Third West Bengal Philatelic Exhibition "Webex-82" will be held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Calcutta-700 001 from March 1982

Rotaractors of Rotaract Club of Pataliputra are hosting the 12th District conference on 6th and 7th March 82 at Patna. A *Rotary Philatelic Exhibition* is being organised to celebrate the event. Two special covers are also to be issued. The P & T will provide special cancellation dedicated to the Rotary and Rotaract theme. The cost of the special cover is Re. 1 each (inclusive of 35 p. stamps affixed duly cancelled)

Lufthansa Delhi - Beijing First Flight Covers: A limited number of special first flight covers which were flown on Lufthansa Delhi-Beijing first flight on 19-4-81 are available at Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street, Head Office, New Delhi-110 001. The cost of each cover is Rs. 5/-only.

'Apple' Satellite Special Covers: A limited number of special covers issued in connection with the launching of APPLE (Ariana Passengers pay load Experiment) Satellite, are available at the Philatelic Bureau, Parliament Street, Head Office New Delhi-110 001, the cost of each cover is Rs. 5 - only.)

IOCOM Cable First Day Covers: A limited quantity of first day covers issued in connection with *locom* cable commemorative stamps were cancelled with the date stamp of Penang P.O. after affixing Malaysian stamps of 50 cents on each cover. Each cover is priced at Rs 4/-.

Monthly meeting (Contd. from Page 9)

the authorities but could not compel them. However he felt happy that many of the suggestions were carried out by the authorities. Shri K. C. Veeraraghavan was sore that the dealers at the exhibitions were selling blacklisted stamps, which should be discouraged. Shri V. N. S. Rau replied that he could have got the answer if the member had attended the seminar during the exhibition. There was no relaxation to import stamps from other countries. Hence dealers were obliged to take recourse to selling these stamps.

February '81: 35 members were present. Shri V. N. S. Rau gave his impressions about the State level philatelic exhibition held at Patna, for which, he was one of the members

For Juniors of all Ages

On Stamp Collection :

Stamps are vehicles of knowledge for any age group. Each stamp has a special little story attached to it. The educational value is limitless. Stamp collecting exercises ones artistic and creative ability. Further each stamp acquisition and album space filled gives some measure of personal satisfaction. Infact there is no limit to the depth and scope that this hobby offers. It even opens the doors to all areas of society since a stamp collector may be any body any where

At the Beginning :

After the initial purchase or gathering of stamps, the knowledge of the method of removing stamps from covers, preserving mint and used stamps, identifying the stamp, mounting of stamps in album pages and so on would be of help to the beginner to get the best advantage.

Removing Stamps from Envelopes :

Stamps should never be torn off envelopes or parcel paper, because this would likely to damage them. Common stamps can safely be placed face upwards on the surface of a bowl of water until they peel easily from the paper. They can then be dried face down words on the blotting paper. With frail, older and those stamps which have inks which "run" when exposed to water, place them face upwards on damp blotting paper and leave them for several hours before attempting to peel them. Some stamps are worth more in a collection if kept on the original envelopes. They should never be removed from "First Day Covers"—envelopes bearing a post mark dated on the day the stamp was first issued. Any very old envelope with stamps on it should be shown to an expert before you remove the stamps.

(to be contd.)

of the Jury. He said that the novel exhibit was on meter frankings dating from the earliest and a brochure was also brought out on the exhibit. He informed the members that the National level philatelic exhibition would be held at Delhi during the month of November and exhorted the members to prepare well for participation in the same.

As announced earlier, a contest, 'Name the country' was held for the juniors present. Three album sheets with stamps mounted were given to the juniors and they were given 5 minutes time to identify the country of issue of each stamp. Smt S. Ramanujam acted as the judge and the prizes donated by the Shri A. C. Thirlokmath were distributed to the winners.

K. PRASAD, *Hony. Secretary.*