



SIPA

Bulletin

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Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At our Monthly Meetings

Sep. '83

17 members were present. Shri. G. Madan Mohan Doss presided. Shri F. P. Seervai gave an interesting and useful talk about glossary of Philatelic Terms. Shri VNS Rau, member of P & T Advisory Council informed the members of his suggestion to the council to issue a commemorative stamp on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Madras G.P.O. He also narrated the history of the Madras G.P.O.

Shri D. H. Rao narrated the difficulties experienced in getting the spl. cancellation on the event of launching of Insat. Again on the occasion when a spl. cancellation was issued in a submarine under water, even though he was a member of Naval Philatelic Bureau he had to go Pillar to Post for getting the cancellation.

Shri Venugopal who had returned from Dubai informed about the auction of Philatelic materials in that country by auctioneers of other countries which met the demand of the Philatelists there. He also stated that the colourful stamps of other countries attracted him to this hobby.

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

Editorial:

Communication Year 1983

On 19 November 1981, The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution and appointed 1983 as the 'World Communication Year.' In accordance with the United Nations every member country has been invited to participate in this once in a century Philatelic event. The response has been magnificent. Stamps depicting the vital roll of communications are being issued by over 110 United Nations countries during this year.

Are these within the reach of our school children ?

In order to highlight the importance of communication, the Tamilnadu circle of the Posts & Telegraphs Department is organising a Mini-Philatelic Exhibition at Madras during the last week of December 1983. The theme of the exhibition is 'communication'. The participation is open only to school students in Madras city and suburbs. The enthusiasm shown by the department in this respect is quite

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SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month - Regular meeting at the Philately Bureau, Anna Road, Post Office.

THIRD SUNDAY of every month - Auction meeting at 41, Perumal Mudali Street, Madras 1

Money in Stamps

By: S. RAMASWAMY

During a recent visit to the Philatelic Bureau, Madras, I noticed a gentleman who had come to buy some new issues, accompanied by his son of about twelve years. When the father started ordering for four copies of each of the new issues available, the son got puzzled. "Why, Daddy, why should you buy four copies when one would do for my collection?" he asked. The father replied, "Well, my dear fellow, one copy is, of course, for your collection. And the other copies are just for keeping by and by the time you grow up, you will find that they have risen very much in value".

Now, this approach to the hobby of stamp collecting with an emphasis on the money aspect of it, which was being inculcated in the youngster, in the early stages of his initiation into the hobby, is not the proper approach. But, actually nowadays, a stamp collector's attention is being increasingly drawn to the monetary aspect, even from the early stages of his stamp collecting career to the detriment of the healthy development of the hobby. As a result, many a newcomer to the hobby turns to dealing in stamps within the first few months.

If only one explores the money angle of Philately, in depth, one would discover that it is not cakes all the way. In such an exploration several factors turn up, which are very often lost sight of in a casual study.

It should never be forgotten that a stamp collection cannot be classed as cash. It may be as good as cash, but is not, however, cash. It cannot even be equated with bullion. It cannot just be taken to the market place and sold like gold or silver. Stamps have an exclusive market of their own. While like any other commodity the price of a stamp is also influenced by the laws of supply and demand, there is this important difference to be noted

i.e. the price of a particular stamp, should it turn out to be a rare one, could reach astronomical heights, if there were several persons competing against one another to possess it.

The market for stamp is fickle, often as all stamps do not appreciate in value uniformly with age. Also, the stamps of the various countries of the world vary in popularity widely. Some rise and fall at different period. The popularity factor, therefore, plays a big part in determining the value of a stamp collection. While stamps of countries like Great Britain, Australia, Canada, France Switzerland, the U.S.A., etc., are ever popular and have a wide following all over the world, there are several others which have only restricted following. The stamps of Burma were quite popular in our country in the fifties but now there are not many who are keen on them. Soon after our country attained independence, many collectors in Britain lost interest in India's stamps. Instances like these are many.

The next very important factor which influences the value of stamps is their condition. In the early days of stamp collecting, we knew only mint or unused copies and used copies. Now the grading has become very elaborate starting with unmounted or never hinged mint copies fetching a considerable premium over the mounted mint ones. This talk of unmounted mint is all right where the climate does not play havoc with the stamp, affecting the gum and the paper.

In our vast country, tropical conditions are in evidence in most places. Humidity and salinity upto a sizable percentage are basic features of the atmosphere in cities like Madras and Calcutta. In these places, the white gum on the back of mint stamps turns

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Money in Stamps (Contd.)

brown in course of time and rust spots start appearing all over the reverse. The use of French chalk, protective mounts etc., do not seem to be of much avail in guarding the stamps against such changes. Many of us have had the galling experience of London dealers returning unsold, many of our valuable stamps with the remark "Stamp Tropicalised". Once this remark attaches to a stamp, its value goes down automatically.

If in spite of all these handicaps, we are able to build up a decent collection and also maintain it in a fairly good condition, we get to the most frustrating part of the whole matter when we want to sell the collection and set out to find a buyer. The point, here, is that not only must a buyer be found, but he must be a person who needs our stamps most and will, therefore, be willing to make a good offer which will satisfy us. We often find, however, that this does not happen.

What happens many times, is somewhat on the following lines. When we show the collection to a prospective buyer, with high hopes, he thumbs through the album in a casual manner, makes a few disparaging remarks about some of the items and finally makes grudgingly, a low offer, which leaves us utterly dismayed and frustrated. When we think of the toil and care that we have bestowed on the collection against the sullen opposition of the spouse and other members of the family, spending hard earned cash, often unwisely, on fancied items, the buyer's offer leaves all our high

hopes shattered to the ground. The frustration is more keenly felt by persons, who have taken to stamp collecting, keeping only the money angle in their view throughout and not enjoying it as a hobby.

It is true that stamps cost a bit of money these days. Gone are the days when we could blissfully swap a stamp for a stamp without bothering about its value. So, a certain amount of money needs to be spent on building up a stamp collection. It, therefore, follows that every stamp collection will have a certain monetary value and so cannot be expected to be just gifted away. But, to concentrate too much on the money aspect of stamp collecting, talking of stamps as an investment as a hedge against inflation and so on is not at all conducive to the healthy growth of stamp collecting as a hobby.

Stamp collecting is first and foremost a fine and instructive hobby. It helps one to find relaxation and diversion for a while, now and then, from the worries and problems of life. If the hobby is to grow and spread ever wider among the young and old alike the monetary angle of Philately should not be played up too much. Money spent on stamps acquired for one's collection must be treated as having been spent for the pleasure of possessing them and not as an investment with prospects of future gain. The gain, if any, could be incidental. The young, especially, should be guided to take to stamp collecting as a fascinating hobby and not as a money making proposition.

(SIPA 1981 Silver Jubilee Souvenir)

NEWS

A special postage stamp (denomination 50 paise) will be issued on 14-11-1983 on 'Children's Day'. The stamp is based on the painting titled 'Festival' by Kashyap R. Prem-sawala (Age 7). The first day cover shows the painting captioned 'At the River' by 'Sajid Jami' (Age 7).

A commemorative stamp (denomination 50 paise) will be issued on 15-11-1983 on the first death anniversary of 'Acharya Vinoba Bhave'. The special cancellation will also be provided at Paunar P.O (Wardha).

A set of two postage stamps (denominations 100 paise & 200 p) on 'Bi-centennial of Man's First Flight' will be issued on 21-11-83. The special cancellation will also be provided at Safdarjung Air Port Post Office, New Delhi-110 003.

A special postage stamp (denomination 200 paise) will be issued on 22-11-1983 on 'Project Tiger' on its 10th anniversary.

A set of two special postage stamps (denominations 100 paise and 200 paise) will be issued on 23-11-1983 to mark the inauguration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The special cancellation will also be provided at Vigyan Bhavan, Post Office, New Delhi and Panaji Head Office, Goa.

100 paise (Hybrid Cotton) and 200 paise (Handloom Weaving) India Public Postage stamps in 6 definitive series will be reissued on 10-11-1983 with revised perforations viz. 13x13. The other technical details remain unchanged.

Special Covers: Two special covers will be issued on 21-11-1983 on the occasion of the 10th Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants to be held in New Delhi. Two special cancellations will also be provided on 21-11-1983 at Indraprastha Head Post Office, New Delhi-2.

A special cover will be issued on 25-11-1983 at Panaji (Goa) on the occasion of CHOGM RETREAT. The cover shows

St. Augustine Church, Goa. Special cancellation will also be provided.

Special Cancellation: A special cancellation will be provided at Bombay, G.P.O. on 9-12-1983 on the centenary celebration of Alliance Francaise of Bombay. Mail orders may be addressed to the Presidency Postmaster, Philatelic Bureau, Bombay GPO.

Norpex-83: The state level exhibition - NORPEX-83 scheduled to be held at Chandigarh on 10-13 November, 1983, has been postponed. It will also not be held at Chandigarh.

Mahapex-83: A set of four special covers, with special cancellations, will be issued in connection with the State Level Philatelic Exhibition-MAHAPEX-83 to be held at Dhule from 12-15 November 1983. Mail orders may be addressed to the Philatelic Bureau, Bombay GPO.

Goapex-83: A Philatelic exhibition (GOAPEX-83) will be held at Panaji from 25-27 November 1983 under the auspicious of the Goa Philatelic and Numismatic Society, Govt. of Goa, P & T Dept. and Institute of Menezes Braganza. Three special covers depicting themes of cultural heritage with special cancellation will be issued on this occasion.

Australian Post: announces a new pre-stamped envelope to commemorate the winning of the America's cup by Australia. The envelopes are on sale from 11th Oct 1983.

Elite Philatelic Club: The Elite Philatelists day 1983 was celebrated on 23rd October 1983 at LLA Building, Madras. Mr. A. Ravooft presided the meeting and Mr. R. Ravindranath, the chief guest and others spoke.

The Indian Institute of Philately, Hyderabad: Has issued a special cover on 7-10-83 honouring Mr. D.N. Jatia, who was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at Bath, England on that day.

The special cover is printed in tricolour screen printing process and depicts the
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emblems of FIP, FIAP, BPF and PCI with the photo of Mr. Jadia in the centre and also contains an information sheet inside.

The special cancellation provided for the 'PHILATELISTS' DAY - 7-10-1983 of Indian Institute of Philately, Hyderabad was quite approximately chosen to coincide with the Day on which Mr. Jadia signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

The special cover with cancellation cost Rs. 1-50 each and those interested may contact Mr. S. Ganesan, Director, Indian Institute of Philately L.I.C. Divisional office Hyderabad. 500 463.

Philatelist Circle of Saurashtra : Is publishing a 'Philatelist Directory in Jan '84. Those interested may send the details regarding their name - address - birth date subject in collection along with Rs. 5/- (By M.O.) to Parag Tejura, President, Philatelist circle of Saurashtra, Prahlad Road-28, Rajkot-360001

welcome. But the success depends upon how far the students manage to get at the stamps and materials required for the preparation of the exhibits.

In spite of the numerous issues of stamps etc., relating to the theme 'communication' by very many countries, the facility made available to the students for obtaining those stamps was absolutely nil. So only a few with Senior Collectors help could prepare a moderately good exhibit and which may not serve the purpose.

Under the circumstance it is essential that the P & T should find some way and means to import a certain quantity of used stamps of other countries and distribute it to schools for issue at a nominal price. To educate the children in this hobby the Department can also spend a few thousands of rupees to buy Philatelic books on various Topics and keep a reference library.

List of Indian Postage Stamps issued since 1947

Name of the Issue	Date of Issue	Denomination	No. of Issue
Commemoratives :			
Birth Anniversary of Dr. Dadabhai Naoroji	4- 9-63	15 nP	1
Birth Anniversary of Dr. (Mrs.) Annie Besant	1-10-63	15 nP	1
Wild Life series	7-10-63	10, 15, 30, 50 nP & Re. 1/-	5
Children's Day, 1963	14-11-63	15 nP	1
15th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights	10-12-63	15 nP	1
XXVI International Congress of Orientalists	4- 1-64	15 nP	1
Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das	4- 1-64	15 nP	1
Purandaradasa - 400th death Anniversary	14- 1-64	15 nP	1
Subhas Chandra Bose - 67th birth Anniversary	23- 1-64	15 nP & 55 nP	2
Sarojini Naidu - 85th birth Anniversary	13- 2-64	15 nP	1
Kasturba Gandhi - 20th death Anniversary	22- 2-64	15 nP	1
Dr. W. M. Haffkine - 104th Birth Anniversary	16- 3-64	15 nP	1
Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru	12- 6-64	0.15	1
Asutosh Mookerjee - 92nd Birth Anniversary	29- 6-64	0.15	1

Philatelic Terms - (contd.)

Cachet: A cachet is an impression on an item of mail, normally made by a hand stamp, produced to record the circumstances of the posting.

Cancelled: The word overprinted on stamps indicates either remainders or printers samples

Cancelled to order: Term used to describe stamps cancelled, usually in quantity, by the issuing postal authority, for sale to the stamp trade, with out the stamps having passed through the post

Catalogue: A stamp catalogue is more than an illustrated price-list, it is the collectors' principal work of reference, listing and describing each stamp in order and giving valuable information on the purpose and date of issue etc.

Changeling: A stamp whose colour has been altered either accidentally or deliberately, by chemical means, or by excessive exposure to sunlight, heat or damp.

Check Letters: Letters in corners of the early issues of G.B. inserted as a precaution against forgery and reuse.

Classic: Early issues which by reason of their history, rarity, or beauty have earned a position of distinction in philately. The term is not easy to define exactly; some collectors would say that no stamp issued after 1875 qualifies as a classic, but others apply the term, relatively speaking to more modern stamps.

Coils: Are stamps wound in the form of reels, rolls or coils for inspection and use in stamp vending affixing machines. Their manufacture usually results in such departure from the normal as to render them distinct and collectable varieties.

Commemorative: A stamp issued usually for a limited period to make a particular event or anniversary, as distinct from a definitive, intended for normal, every day postal use for an indefinite period.

Control over prints also control letters and numbers: It was common practice in some South American states to over print a distinctive device upon stamps issued to maior cities and to departments, as a check upon misuse.

Controls: Marginal control letters and/or numbers appear on sheets.

Counterfoil: Stamps with counterfoils, as distinct from coupons have been issued. The Kotelnich (Russia) Drammen (Norway) locals had them and the modern parcel post issues of Italy and San Marino can also be classed as stamps with counterfoils

Coupon: A label attached to a postage stamp carrying a slogan, propaganda matter, or related device to the design on the stamp, or other feature, and which in itself has no postal validity. They have been used by Australia, Czechoslovakia, Italy etc.

Crash Cover: A cover that has been salvaged from the crash of the aeroplane, train or other vehicle in which it was carried. Such covers often carry a postal marking explaining their damaged condition, making them of interest to collectors.

Crease: A noticeable weakening of the paper of a stamp, having been caused by its being folded or bent at some point creases substantially lower a stamp's value.

Cut-outs: Printed stamps cut-out from postal stationery and used as adhesive stamps on other items of mail are known as cut-outs

Cut-square: This term is used of imperforate stamps or stamps cut from postal stationery which in the cutting are given rectangular or near-rectangular shape.

Cut-to shape: This term is used in contrast to 'cut square', cut to shape means cut to conform to the shape of the design. In the case of imperforate stamps e.g. the embossed stamps of Great Britain and India cut to shape indicates sub-standard condition.

At our Monthly Meeting-contd page 21

Oct.: '83: 26 Members were present.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das gave the details of Philatelic exhibitions that were held at Barcelona and Bangkok. Then Shri Doss read out certain panages from Signet on Pre-Cover cancellation.

Shri F.P. Seervai gave an interesting talk about U.P.U.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das regretted that while many other countries are observing stamp collection month once in a year it is not being done so in our country and suggested that the authorities concerned should consider it.

P.C.I.

The Regional meeting of the Philatelic Congress of India was held at Bangalore on July 10, 1983. The meeting was presided over by Col. L. G. Shenoi, Vice-President of the Philatelic Congress of India.

Shri. Y. R. Shah gave a display talk on Bhanghy post and also distributed a good hand out on the subject. He concluded the talk with a suggestion that the PCI should decide about the status of these Bhanghy marks especially found on parcel receipts.

Col. Shenoi opened that the subject required further study and added that the P.C.I. would examine its position.

Shri. Madan Mohan Das said that in the earlier days when letters were given to Dak Runners in villages there was indication in the working as to whether the letters were paid or not. The Bhanghy mark was vernacular and that a few covers indicating that were available with him. He also added that the Dak Runners deposited the parcels enroute, a marking was made but such wrappers were not available.

Shri. C.A. Rajagopalachari mentioned that the P & T Dept. had not given necessary assistance in his research on the Refugee Relief stamps col. shenoi informed that the P.C.I. was taking up the matter with appropriate authorities and all available information would be made easily accessible to philatelists. He also added that the P&T in Bangalore had made available all the information.

Shri. M.G. Pittie, Secretary General, felt that the Post Master General should take steps to celebrate the Bicentenary of 'Mysore ANCHEL' and bring out its importance in the history of postal service. The post master General also has promised to take up the matter with the higher authorities.