



SIPA

Bulletin

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At our Monthly Meeting

January '84

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das complimented the postal authorities for having conducted the Mini Philatelic Exhibition for school children and further said that most of the prizes in the exhibition were bagged by the members of our association. Some of the prize winners who attended the meeting also introduced themselves.

Shri F. P. Seervoi gave some tit bits in philately. He said that during 1983, 36 stamps to the value of Rs 49/05 were issued.

Later the President said that this year the GPO Madras was adjudged the best post office. The President congratulated Shri T. S. Kulkarni, who has recently retired after a long period of about 35 years, and placed on record the services rendered by him to philately.

Shri T. S. Kulkarni later spoke in detail regarding his experiences in his employment from the date of joining till his retirement. He has narrated some anecdotes of how his valuable collections of Mahatma Gandhi stamps and other stamps were given away by

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

Editorial :

ISE's Services and the need of Indian Philatelists

Mr. B. T. Cheverton, President elect, India Study Circle, who is on a tour of India visited Madras during the penultimate week of February. He had a meeting with the members of the South India Philatelists' Association. Some of them were members of India Study Circle also.



Mr. Cheverton was welcomed enthusiastically.

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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

Country Collection

JAPANESE POSTAGE STAMPS

[Collecting stamps of a particular country is not a new one and is in fact very old as the hobby of Philately itself—In these columns, whenever possible, it is proposed to bring out the gist of the stamp issues of various countries for the benefit of those interested in country-wise collection—Articles are also invited from the members on various other countries' stamps. The following is on Japanese postage stamps. Those who collect Japanese stamps are requested to send in their name and address for circulation among the members. —Editor.]

The first postage stamps in Japan were issued on April 20, 1871, the Inauguration Day of the first modern system of postal service run by the state. The postage stamps were of 4 denominations and were all printed in monochrome by a hand-engraved intaglio process.

Thereafter, many kinds of postage stamps have been issued, in step with the development of postal service. At present, 29 kinds of ordinary postage stamps from 1 Yen to 1000 Yen are on sale, and most of them are of photogravure in numerous colours. The number of kinds issued to date is about 400.

As for special postage stamps, the first were of 2 denominations, 2 Sen and 5 Sen, issued on March 9, 1894 in celebration of the 25th Wedding Anniversary of their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress Meiji. Since then, about 1,000 kinds have been issued. Special postage stamps are issued to publicize national commemorative events,

outstanding scenic spots, and to mark the holding of International Conferences.

In recent years, about 30 kinds of postage stamps have been issued annually, and a special intaglio printing developed for postage stamps has been introduced in addition to photo gravure and conventional intaglio, and notable results have been achieved in the production of beautiful stamps.

With the object of popularizing philately and obtaining wider recognition of the cultural value of postage stamps, philately week is held on a nation-wide basis, and a postage stamp to mark the week has been issued every year. As for the design, "Ukiyoe" pictures have mainly been used, but in recent years, works by distinguished modern painters and pictures on folding screens have also been featured. The stamps of this series have been the most popular stamps issued by the Ministry.

(From a publication by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications JAPAN.)

FIP

International Rules for Postal History Exhibits.

[The Postal History Commission finalised International Rules for Postal History Collection which is enumerated below : these rules will be placed before the next FIP Congress for financial approval. After the approval this will come into effect from January 1, 1985—SIGNET October–December 1983]

Art. 1: A postal history exhibit is a collector of documents or postal items which have been carried by the postal service, whether official, or local or private and if necessary, forwarded by those bodies which might interfere in the transport of mail (censor

disinfection etc) Such collections can either explain the organisation and the functioning of postal services so as to show the transport of mail (lines of communication, method of transport, postal marking, tariffs, etc.) or the classification and the study of postal markings applied on the letters by these services or institutions, and of the marks of obliteration of postal items.

Art. 2 : All items included in the exhibit should be in a good condition as possible. The inclusion of forged, faked, repaired or improved material not described as such, shall lead to down-grading or even to disqualification.
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Art. 3: The postal history class in philatelic exhibitions shall be judged by specialist judges who will be members of the jury.

Art. 4: In judging a postal history class the jury shall be guided in making its awards by the following criteria.

a) Development of the subject, study and personal research, and degree of advancement.

b) Importance of the exhibit and rarity of the material.

c) Condition of the material.

d) Presentation of the exhibit.

Explanatory Note to Art. 1:

(a) A postal history exhibit consists primarily of used covers, used postal stationary and used adhesive postage stamps, and postal documents, arranged so as to illustrate a postal

history theme according to article 1. The exhibit may contain, where strictly necessary, also mint adhesive stamps, prints, sketches, decrees and the like.

(b) Such postal history themes are interalia:

1. Pre-adhesive postal services
2. General studies of the development of postal services, national or international.
3. Postal markings (marcophily).
4. Military mail: field post, siege mail, POW and concentration camp mail.
5. Maritime mail
6. Disaster mail
7. Disinfected mail
8. Railway mail
9. Censorship of mail
10. Postage due mail
11. Automation of the mails.

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The main aim of his visit was to study and improve the services of India Study Circle to the Indian members.

During the discussion Mr. Cheverton mentioned about the appointment of Mr S. C. Sukani of Calcutta to represent India for ISC, and the proposal to appoint certain regional representatives for collecting membership fees, for distributing and circulating the bulletins and other publications of ISC. He informed about ISC's Services to widows / dependants in the disposal of their collections, and also mentioned about the proposed facility to members to auction or sell their material through the agent of ISC in India.

He was much concerned over the deteriorating interest shown by the Indian Philatelists in general towards research work and submission of articles for publication in the ISC Bulletin. He even expressed his mind in saying that there should be more Indian members in ISC than from other countries (The membership figures of ISC at the beginning of 1984:

UK 301; India 83; USA / Canada 117
Europe 52; Australia 20; others 15)

We sincerely thank the ISC and its President elect Mr. B. T. Cheverton for the efforts taken.

While thanking the ISC for its sincere efforts it is also to be expressed that any specialisation and research begins only after some basic interest and knowledge. For instance when one gets in to the hobby, his interest lies in the general collection of the whole world stamps. Then he starts specialising in a few countries, subject or theme and finally with sufficient material and knowledge attains research capability.

The first and foremost need now is to make available the material (stamps etc.) of all the countries to kindle the initial interest in the hobby itself. Mere Indian stamps or for that matter some cancelled to order stamps of certain countries alone will not serve the cause. Philately in all its aspects including research can get a boost in India only when the stamps of all the countries (at least used ones) are imported and made available to the collectors

Postage Label Vending Machines

Australia Post will soon join the growing world-wide list of postal authorities adopting the use of postage label vending machines. The new postage labels have the same validity as stamps for prepayment of postage and they are gummed for affixing to mail in the same manner as conventional postage stamps.

Postage labels are dispensed from electronic vending machines. The machines, manufactured by Frama of Switzerland will be placed on trial at each capital city G. P. O. including the new G. P. O. in Canberra. The machines will begin operation on 22 February 1984. If the initial seven machines prove successful in the trial, more postage label vending machines will be installed at key locations around Australia.

The great advantage of postage label vending machines is that they provide a twenty-four hour, seven-day a week service for customers who need to purchase postage stamps when post offices are closed.

The Swiss postal administration was the first to introduce modern-style Frama postage label vending machines, this being in August 1976. Several other European countries quickly followed the Swiss example. Norway, Belgium and Finland were among the early countries to adopt Frama postage label vending machines. France and Germany have adopted similar concepts using machines built by another manufacturer. Great Britain is one of the latest countries to announce the introduction of Frama postage label vending machines.

Australia Post's Machines will produce postage labels cut from continuous rolls of stamp paper bearing a distinctive pre-printed back ground design. When a machine is operated, it will imprint a label with the required denomination together with a post-code indicating the vending machines location.

The design on the new Australia Post vending labels is a series of diagonal bars running down either edge of the stamp paper

Code of ethics to be proposed to the member postal administrations of the UPU

1. The member postal administrations of the union shall, in principle, confine their issues to subjects having a connection with their country or with international personalities and events.

2. Administrations shall themselves monitor the way in which their stamps are issued in order to avoid any abusive commercial speculation.

3. They shall also make arrangements for the stamps to be on sale for an appropriate period and for them to be valid for prepayment for a sufficient period which shall be left to the appreciation of each administration.

4. They shall avoid issuing high-value commemorative or charity stamps.

5. They shall avoid the joint production of perforated and imperforated stamps for one and the same issue, except when the imperforate stamps concern philatelic tributes.

6. They shall avoid issuing miniature sheets of stamps bigger than the usual size of existing albums or which, because of their excessively large size, cause despatching problems.

7. Postal administrations which assign their stamp production and/or sales to Government or private Philatelic Agencies shall maintain total control of all operations so that points 1 to 6 are always complied with.

8. The denominations of the postage stamps issued shall correspond to the current postage rates.

*(A part of the news item published in
SIGNET-Jan-March 1984 under the title
" International Round table on Philately:
UPU - FIP - IFSDA - ASCAT ")*

roll. Over this the machine imprints its information in red ink. The diagonal barred design is pre-printed on APWH stamp paper.

(At our Monthly Meeting — *contd.* from page 7)

his children to the school teachers etc., and said that the children should be educated about the value of collection of stamps etc.

February '84

Shri F. P. Seervoi in his characteristic and inimitable style gave a talk entitled "Anatomy of a stamp." He stressed the need to know about a stamp in detail before venturing into the hobby. He dissected the stamp into 12 main characteristics, viz, country of issue, year of issue, function of the stamp, design, denomination, currency, paper, watermark, printing, colour, perforation and gum. Each characteristic of a stamp was explained in detail and his scientific analysis of the study of a stamp was very interesting and useful to the members present particularly to the juniors.

Shri V. N. S. Rau announced that Shri P. T. Cheverton, the distinguished and internationally renowned philatelist and the President-elect of the India Study Circle, of the United Kingdom would be in the city for a couple of days and a get-together was arranged on the 29th February at 5-30 p.m. over tea at Hotel Ashoka. He invited all the members to be present and inform other

members who were absent at the meeting to exchange views and make the occasion a memorable one. He commended the services rendered by the India Study Circle and the wealth of research done by it, passing on the news thro' its quarterly publication and in the form of series of volumes brought out by it. He then gave details of AUSIPEX to be held at Melbourne during September under the auspices of FIP for 10 days with about 8200 frames.

The P & T Dept. came in for its well merited praise by Shri D. H. Rao when he shared his experiences in obtaining a special cancellation on the occasion of the launching of INSAT. Similarly he was taken aback at the speed with which the Navy personnel got him the special souvenir, though prohibitively priced, released during the special naval exercises in honour of the President of India.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das narrated the activities of the Sahu Carona Club which had recently launched a magazine "Philatelic Digest" in collaboration with Chinara Exports of Delhi and appreciated the get up and the valuable contents of the inaugural issue.

He then read some small articles from old magazines donated to him in bound Volumes by the son of a philatelist who is no more.