



SIPA

Bulletin

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At our Monthly Meeting

March '84

17 members were present. Shri F.P. Seervai Vice-President was in the chair.

Shri Balaram, one of our senior members, conveyed the sad news of the deaths of Shri N. Y. Sastry, brother of Smt. Rukmani Devi and Shri Kamalanaban both elderly members of the association. The Chairman condoled the bereavement and requested the secretary to convey the same to the bereaved families.

The Chairman then requested the members to air their views and give suggestions as to how best the association could be of help to them. Shri Viswanathan came up with the suggestion that the members having common interest can exchange stamps instead of purchasing their requirements from dealers. He also said that stamps could be obtained at reasonable rates at auctions held abroad than from the dealers in India. He expressed some of the problems that may arise in the valuation of stamps while exchanging them. Mr Seervai suggested that small exchange circles with similar interests could be formed by the members. He then proceeded to give

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

Editorial :

It is indeed a great honour for the South India Philatelists' Association that Shri V.N S. Rau and Shri G. Madan Mohan Das have been elected to the Philatelic Congress of India as President and Secretary respectively. Shri V. N. S. Rau is one of the most distinguished philatelists in the country. He is a member of our association since its inception.

In recognition of his services to philately, he was invited to the seminar on philately held at New Delhi by the Government of India in 1967 and his contribution was further fittingly recognised by his being taken in as a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of Government of India and later as Member of the Central Post and Telegraph Advisory Committee of Government of India

Shri V. N. S. Rau has taken active part as a member of the jury in many a state and national level exhibitions and as well in the International exhibition conducted under the auspices of F.I.A.P. known as 'Asiana 77' and in the 'India-80' International Exhibition. He has now been chosen to represent

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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.

SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY at every month - Regular meeting at the Philately Bureau, Anna Road, Post Office.
THIRD SUNDAY at every month - Auction meeting at 41 Perumal Mudali Street, Madras-1.

Endorsements—

One of the Many Facets of Philately

By M. T. KARUNAKARAN

Lost year in India-80 I had an opportunity to exhibit a few of the Endorsements under the title "Overprints, Surcharges and Endorsements". Though Overprints and Surcharges are widely known, Endorsements are comparatively little known and rather uncommon.

Overprints, Surcharges and Endorsements come under one group as they are printed only as an addition to the existing stamp. While Overprints and Surcharges are added to the existing design, Endorsements are printed on the reverse or the back of the stamp. Printing at the back was described as an underprint in the early days. But later, when logically thought over, as they were not actually printed under or beneath the design on the front of the stamp, but printed only on the reverse or back of the stamp they have been termed as "Endorsements".

These endorsements are not a regular feature of all the stamp issuing countries of the world. In fact only a handful of them have subscribed to this idea, during these 141 years of stamp issuing. Presumably most of the postal authorities all over the world do not consider this feature as an useful or effective or a long lasting medium.

However, the main purposes behind the printing of such endorsements were to provide a description of the design, to advertise, to propagate or to furnish information to people, to give protection to the users (firms) and to substitute or provide a pseudo watermark.

Nicaragua, Portugal, New Zealand, Great Britain, United States of America, Mauritius, Fiume (Italy), Tasmania, Sweden, Spain, Greece, India and Brazil were the few countries that have subscribed to this idea to some extent.

Among these countries Nicaragua has issued a series of Endorsements. The basic stamp was not a postal issue. Stamps of the

Railway Company's Administration were initially surcharged for fiscal purposes. These fiscal stamps were then endorsed with the word "Correos" and the date, together with the face value of the postal rate. These stamps had to be endorsed probably for the simple reason that the fiscal surcharges were already printed on the face of the stamp and a second overprinting on the front would create confusion. After an interval of several years during 1976 Nicaragua issued a set of stamps on the theme "Stamp on stamps." The endorsements on these stamps carried the particulars of the famous classic stamp depicted in the design. As the endorsements are printed over the gum care should be taken to keep the gum intact as any washing or disturbance of the gum would destroy or spoil the endorsement printed over it.

Portugal issued in 1895 a set of 5 stamps marking the 700th anniversary of the birth of St. Antony of Padua, Patron Saint, depicting the various events of his life. Each of these stamps was printed with a prayer in Latin on the reverse. In recent times on a number of occasions, Portugal has issued stamps with endorsements. During 1968, a set of 7 stamps (S. G. 1346-52) were issued in connection LABRAPEX 1969 STAMP EXHIBITION IN MADEIRA-PEARL of Atlantic. Then followed two more issues during 1969 and 1970 with endorsements. All these stamps, have trilingual (Portuguese, French and English) captions printed on the back.

Fiume, under Allied Occupation in Italy from 17 November 1918 to 12 September 1919 had issued a set of stamps on 18th May 1919 commemorating the 200th day of peace. These stamps were sold at a premium over and above the Postal value in aid of students of Fiume, prosecuting their studies in Italy. All these stamps were endorsed faintly in black with the words "POSTA DE FIUME".

three times in parallel lines, which possibly served as pseudo watermark.

During 1893, New Zealand issued some of its 1882 definitives with commercial advertisement printed on the back. They are known on S. G. Nos. 195/200, 201a, 203, 205, 206a, 207b, 216b/g and 216 i/i (most), 218/20 and 224 b/226 b (most). "Beecham's pill for nervous ills"; "Lattey, Livermore and Co. Ltd., Wellington. Ask for their pure Indian and Ceylon Teas"; "use Kaitangata coal cheapest and cleanest" were a few of the advertisements, that were printed on the back in reddish mauve ink.

Great Britain also has a few endorsements to its credit. The 1887-1892 Jubilee issue $\frac{1}{2}$ d vermilion stamp with "PEARS SOAP" printed on the back over the gum, though not officially recognised, has been sought for by philatelists and hence gained a premium in value. Before the introduction of Postal Orders small payments were made in postage stamps which could be cashed at the post offices. Such arrangements at times resulted in theft and to prevent it, some of the main commercial users requested the post office to print certain markings on the back of the stamps before issuing to them. This official protection was accorded to five organisations only. They are J & C Boyd & Co. Friday St. Copestake, Moore, Crompton & Co, London; W. H. Smith & Son; Great Eastern Railway and Oxford Union Society.

The stamps of Tasmania, an island south of Australia, now one of the States of the Australian Commonwealth, issued in 1899, also are known with advertisements printed on the back.

Hungary issued in 1925 a set of 8 stamps depicting sporting scenes. These stamps were sold at a premium of 100% in aid of Sport Associations. An inscription to this effect appears on the back of each stamp.

The 1852 reprints of Netherlands stamps are found with the word "NADRUUK" printed at the back and the impression is blurred.

During 1915 Russia issued currency stamps depicting the designs of its earlier

issues. "Tercentenary of Romanov dynasty" printed on card with inscription on the back. The inscription reads "Having circulation on a par with silver subsidiary coins." Again the stamps with the same designs issued in 1917 carried the inscription "copper money" in place of "silver subsidiary coins." Though they were neither intended nor authorised for postal purposes they were occasionally used on mail.

These stamp of San Marino commemorating the delivery of the Flag of the Arab to San Marino (S.G. 92) was inscribed on the back with the name of the designer, etc.

Lately the United States of America also has joined the field, when it issued a set of 10 commemorative stamps on 'Postal Service Employees' during 1973. Beneath the gum on the reverse of each stamp particulars of Postal turnover such as the number of stamps sold yearly by the U.S. Post Offices, the number of letters and packages handled yearly by the Postal Employees and the total weight the coverage of distances done by the postal employees on each delivery day to deliver the mail etc., and with the caption 'People serving you' as the bottom line, were printed in emerald colour. While these endorsements furnished information to the public they also served as propaganda for the postal service.

Mauritius issued a set of stamps (SG 427/30) on Tourism, on the reverse of which was printed over the gum the details of tourist attraction.

A posthorn design in blue colour was printed on the reverse of stamps of Sweeden on the issues of 1886-91 (SG 29 to 38) just before its stamps, began to be issued with water mark.

Some of the 1941-45 definitive issues of Brazil are found with three parallel green lines vertically on the back. The stamps were with varied water mark and the endorsed lines served as additional protection.

Some of the Indian map series definitives were printed with serial numbers on the back, before the sheets were made in strips of 9 each and pasted to form coils for issue through

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Endorsements



P. C. I.

During the last regional meeting of the PCI which was held in New Delhi at the India International Centre on the 27th November 1983, many important items were discussed. P&T's attention was also drawn:

(i) to revive the periodical meetings between the Heads of Circles and the local philatelists and to have more frequent meetings of the DGP & T and P. C. I. at the Directorate to thrash out various steps to be taken for taking the hobby to the mass.

(ii) to have a Philatelic foundation for promoting philately in India in all its aspects. The Foundation may be financed from the revenue of the philatelic sale - 10 to 15% of the total sale may be earmarked for the foundation.

(iii) to honour some of our reputed philatelists through commemorative postage stamps.

(iv) to render import facilities to make stamps and postal stationeries of other countries available to the philatelists.

(v) to prepare a calendar of exhibitions to be organised in a year both in the state level and district levels so that they do not clash with each other.

(vi) to review the panel of jury.

(vii) to organise a state level exhibition in Delhi in early 1984 and to have the National by the end of 1984.

It was also decided to have the bilateral Indo-Soviet exhibition and to arrange for a Thematic and youth exhibition at the National level in 1984.

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Endorsements —

stamp vending machine. 5np. 10np. 20np. 25np. and 50np were the denominations that were issued in such coils. While the coils were to simplify the issue of stamps, the numbers served the purpose of accounting at the post office.

The control numbers on the back of the imperforate stamps of the early issues of Greece and the control numbers in various colours on the back of various definitives of Spain since 1875, the letters 'N.D.' on the back of the stamps of Northern Southern Districts of Thurn and Taxis which later became part of the German Empire, the Graphite lined issues of Great Britain, all come under this category of collection.

The 1861-65 issues of Prussia, a German State though they were issued rouletted, are also found imperf. but in this state the post marked ones are looked upon as proofs and some of these which carry inscription at the back are essays.

These Endorsements which are not so common provide scope for research and can surely be classed as one among the many fascinating and absorbing facets of Philately.

Stamp issue programme for 1984

Great Britain :

Jan.	17	Heraldry 4 stamps
Mar.	6	Cattle 5 stamps
Apr.	10	Urban Renewal 4 stamps
May	15	Europa 4 stamps (2 Se-tenants)
Jun.	26	Greenwich Meridian 4 stamps
Sep.	25	British Council 4 stamps
Nov.	20	Christmas 5 stamps

Australia :

Jan.	26	Australia Day 30c
Feb.	22	50th Anniv.—First Official Airmail Australia - New Zealand and Australia-Papua New Guinea 2 x 45c (Se-tenant)
Mar.	14	Australian Vintage and Veteran Cars

Apr.	4	Australian paintings (definitive)
..	18	Birthday of HM Queen 30c
May		Clipper Slips (4 stamps)
Jun.		Snow skiing in Australia 4 stamps
..		Australian Marine Life 6 (definitive)
Jul.		Olympic Games (3 stamps)
Aug.		Christmas Part I (1 stamp)
..		Ausipex 84, 1 stamp and 1 m sheet
Oct.		Christmas Part II 2v
Nov.		Bi-Centenial Collection - The First Australians 9 stamps
..		150th Anniv. of Victoria 2 stamps (Se-tenant)

Centenary of Madras GPO Building

A special commemorative cover with a special cancellation was released on Thursday by Mr. V. N. S. Rau, President, Philatelic Congress of India at a function organised by the Posts and Telegraph Department, Tamil Nadu Circle. Mrs. Santha Sheela Nair, Commissioner, Corporation of Madras received the Special Cover.

Mr. M. Subramanian, Post-Master General who presided said that the GPO itself would be completing 200 years of its existence and hoped the Bicentennial which is coming off in June 1986 will be celebrated in a fitting manner.

Mr. V. N. S. Rau, then explained, how the GPO first started functioning in a building on the Beach in Fort St. George Square from June 1786 and moved from Fort St. George to Pophams Broadway in Black Town as it was then known. After several discussions the PWD

put up the present building between 1883 and 1884 and finally opened by the Prince of Wales who was on a visit to Madras.

Madras GPO was called the Presidency Post Office like those in Calcutta and Bombay.

The occupation of GPO Building by the postal department took place in three phases. On March 1, 1884, the office of the PMG was moved from the Chartered Mercantile Bank building on North Beach Road followed by the Telegraph Office on March 9, 1884. The GPO itself moved on April 26 as aforesaid and Postal transactions were thrown open to the public on that day.

Mrs. Shantha Sheela Nair, commended the care taken by the Postal Department to preserve the elegance of the original building while putting up new structures within the complex to meet the requirements of the expanding services.

NEWS

Philatelist Circle of Saurestra: Informs its proposal to publish a 'Philatelist Directory' containing the Name - Birth date, subject of collection. Special collection particulars of philatelists and experts' article on stamp collection those interested may contact the Secretary, 1/4, Vardhman Nagar, Palace Road, Raikot-360001.

Ludhiana Philatelic Club: The club organised a special Date Ticket Mela on Children's Day is 14th November, 1982. The Mela was inaugurated by St. Joginder Paul Panday (Health and Family Welfare Minister, Punjab.) In his inaugural address the chief guest reiterated the pivotal role played by Pandit, Jawaharlal Nehru in the country's freedom-struggle and development. He also announced a sum of Rs. 2900/- for the distribution of new Albums among school children. A cultural programme was also presented by the school children. A special Children's Day Brochure was also brought out by the club on that day.

Special Cover: A special cover will be issued by the Post Master General, Tamilnadu Circle on 26th April, 1984 on the completion of 100 years of the Madras GPO in the present building.

Special Cancellation: A special cancellation will be provided on the First All India Vysya Conference in Devangere from 12th to 14th April, 1984.

India Service Postage Stamps: It has been decided to issue 5ps, 10ps, 15ps, 20ps, 30ps, 50ps, 100ps, 500ps and 1000ps India Service Postage Stamps in New Ashoka Pillar design 1984 on 15-4-84. The stamps are printed on Ashoka Pillar water mark stamp paper reels 47 GSM.

Exhibition: The first Siliguri Postal Region Philatelic Exhibition-1984 (SILPEX-84) was held in Siliguri from 6 to 8 April, 1984. Three special covers with cancellations (Price of a cover with stamp is Rs. 1-50) were issued.

Philatelic Terms—(contd.)

Embossed : A system of printing in which the design is raised above the normal surface of the paper.

Entire : A complete envelope letter sheet post card, wrappers bearing one or more postage stamps.

Error : A stamp accidentally different from normal having some peculiarity which if noticed would have been rectified before printing.

Essay : A suggested design for a stamp.

Europa : Various European countries since 1956 produce stamps on the theme 'United Europe'.

Express : Many countries issue stamps especially for prepayment of express or expedited postal services, some or termed 'Express' other 'Special delivery' etc.

Face value or Face : The value of a stamp as printed there on, or its equivalent in the prevailing rate of exchange.

Catalogue Value in the selling price quoted for a stamp by the catalogue.

Facimile : An imitation of a stamp, produced with no intention to deceive, and used for illustrative purposes.

Faded stamp : Certain colours, usually red or blue or combination of these primaries are liable to early fading if exposed to light.

Fake : A genuine stamp altered in case of a fraudulent imitation it is termed as 'Forgery'.

First Day Cover (F.D.C.) : This is a cover bearing a stamp or stamps cancelled (Post marked) on the first day of issue.

First Flight Cover : A cover flown on the first flight of a new air mail service, usually bearing some endorsement if the circumstances and the route on which it was carried.

Fiscal : A stamp issued for the purpose of collecting a tax other than postage or telegraph charges (A stamp used for collecting non postal taxes)

Flow : A blemish in a stamp arising during manufacture.

Flown Cover : A cover bearing evidence that it has been carried by air mail.

Fore runner : Historical predecessor of a philatelic group or issue. For example stamps of Palestine are the fore runners of those of Israel. British stamps used in West Indies, Australian states as fore runners of the issue of Australia as a whole etc.

Fore mat : A stamp size, shape and dimensional form. A stamp may be described as of square rectangular (vertical or horizontal) diamond, triangular, round etc.

Frame : The portion of a design which surrounds the central portion.

Franks : Some indication on the face of the cover that it is to be carried free of postage.

Fresh entry : Process of substituting a new entry on an engraved printing plate for an unsatisfactory original one which has been erased. Sometimes residual traces of the first entry can result in part of the stamp design being doubtly printed.

Graphite line : Name given to the issue of Great Britain low values released in November 1957 with vertical lines of graphite printed in black on the back of the stamps. They were introduced in connection with the experimental installation of the words' first electronic letter facing machine at Southampton G.P.O. in November 1957. They were replaced by stamps with prospher lines on front.

Grill or Grille : A symmetrical pattern of cross lines forming rectangular, square or diamonds (a) The diamond shaped cancellation used on the stamps of France 1849-51 and known as 'Grille' canceller (b) The security employed by the U. S. Post Office in its stamps of 1861-71 and of Peru 1874-9.

Gum : The adhesive matter on the back of a postage stamp as issued. A postage stamp with its gum as issued is referred to.

sometimes, as 'with original gum' or 'O.G.' if the stamp has lost its O.G. and has had other gum put on, the stamp is referred to as 're-gummed.'

Guide dot or line : A fine dot or line visible on a stamp as a result of a mark made on the printing base as a guide to work-man when transferring impressions.

Gutter : The space usually blank between the 'panes' of a sheet of stamps.

Hair line : The fine line which crosses the outer lower corner of each side of some Great Britain stamps issued in 1862. The term is also applied to fine scratches on a plate or cylinder which print in the colour of the ink employed.

Hand struck : This term is applied to any impression on paper created by pressure from a single die held in the hand. The die is attached to a handle for easy use.

Health stamp : A postage stamp sold above its postal value, the excess being devoted to the promotion of health or combating disease.

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At our Monthly Meeting

details of the get-together held at Hotel Ashoka with Shri P. T. Cheverton of India study circle, for the benefit of those who could not participate in the meeting. He circulated among the members a set of album sheets duly mounted with Indian stamps that were released during February '84. He also showed a telegraph form dating back to 1926 which had as many as 32 advertisements all over it. A comparative study of number of stamps issued by various countries in 1982 was made.

Then at the request of Mr. Seervai, Mr. Prasad read an article entitled "Gems Among the Post-Independence Issue of Neglected Modern India" from the March issue of India stamp journal which was highly informative and interesting.

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Hinges : A rectangle of gummed paper specially prepared for mounting specimens (stamps).

Imperforate : (Abbreviation imperf) : Not perforated for separation.

Imprint : An inscription giving the name of the printer, or year of issue etc. found on the margins of the sheets or on the stamps.

Indorsement (Endorsement) : An inscription on the back of a postage stamp.

Inscription : The lettering comprising the name of the country (if any), the value, and some times other lettering appearing as an integral part of the design; as distinct from the portrait or other main central figure.

Inverted : Turned upside down. In stamp printing there have been inverted frames, inverted surcharges and overprints and inverted water marks all of which are minor or major varieties, with more or less importance to the philatelist.

Issue : (a) A postage stamp or series of postage stamps or any other postal item put in to use.

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Editorial.....

India at the International exhibition, 'Philo Korea 84' to be held at Seoul, South Korea.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das is well known for his knowledgeable speeches at our monthly meetings. Being a voracious reader, he has abundant philatelic knowledge which he always willingly shares with others.

In recognition of their many sided activities in the promotion of philately and in recognition of being chosen as the President and Secretary of the Philatelic Congress of India the members of SIPA have with great pleasure presented them mementos.

We are sure that this token of goodwill and affection would enthuse them to do more useful service to Philately in India.

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List of Indian Postage Stamps issued since 1947

Name of the Issue	Date of Issue	Denomination	No. of Issue
Commemoratives :			
Sri Aurobindo—92nd birth Anniversary	16- 8-64	0.15	1
Raja Rammohan Roy death Anniversary	27- 9-64	15 nP	1
6th General Assembly—International Organization for Standardisation (ISO)	9-11-64	0.15	1
Children's Day, 1964	14-11-64	0.15	1
St. Thomas	2-12-64	0.15	1
XXII International Geological Congress	14-12-64	0.15	1
Jamsetji N. Tata—125th year of birth Anniversary	7- 1-65	0.15	1
Lala Lajpat Rai—Birth Centenary	28- 1-65	0.15	1
XX Congress—International Chamber of Commerce	8- 2-65	0.15	1
Indian Shipping—2nd National Maritime Day	5- 4-65	0.15	1
Abraham Lincoln—Death Centenary	15- 4-65	0.15	1
International Telecommunication Union Centenary	17- 5-65	0.15	1
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru—1st Death Anniversary	27- 5-65	0.15	1
International Co-operation Year 1965	26- 6-65	0.15	1
Mt. Everest Expedition, 1965	15- 8-65	0.15	1

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