



# SIPA

Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

Vol. 12 No. 3

May - June 1991

Bimonthly

## SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

### OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

**March 1991** — 25 members present.

Shri D.H.Rao, our Vice President, gave a display talk on currency notes with three Albums, how he was able to get plastic currency notes Aus. \$50.00 and also New Zealand through his good friends. He showed Indian currency notes with 12 Governors of Reserve Bank of India signature. Sri R. Chittibabu showed some pre-stamp letters with rare markings of U.K. (27) and also a unique letter with good calligraphy writing. How a letter is written normally and also in a diagonal way in calligraphy to save postal rates in early days.

Our president, G. Madan Mohan Das gave news of the recent new issues and about the deliberation of the Regional Governing Council Meeting held at Bombay by the Philatelic Congress of India, on 22/2/1991. A request to bring four Album Sheets by each member was also made. Shri Narayanan was thanked for giving publicity folders of New Zealand and Switzerland to members at each meeting.

**April 91** — 27 Members present.

Janab Ravooof gave a short talk on "Glorious Quoran" (with 3 frames of stamps display). The Text was revealed by Almighty God to Prophot Mohammed (peace be upon earth) as a guidance to mankind and which was completely preserved till now in its original form. He mentioned the salient features that was mentioned in Holy Quran. Sri G. Madan Mohan Das President gave details of New issues, special cancellations and requested members to bring their collection. Shri. D.H. Rao, our Vice President informed about the starting of Madras Coins Society, and he was elected has President.

**May 1991** — 20 members Present.

Sri D.H. Rao presided. Sri Vikram Raghavan displayed U.N. Commemoration Cards duly cancelled with stamps which he got from one of his pen friends. Sri D.H.Rao showed some Australian pre-stamp envelopes Cutting.

Sri G.Madan Mohan Das, President discussed about youth philately. Sri Seshadri wanted details of Themes collected by each member. Sri A.V. Krishna Rao undertook to compile with the particulars furnished by members.

**June 1991** — 23 Members present.

There was a general discussion about issue of stamps. Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das appraised members of the Vadopex 91: District Level Exhibition. There was some discussion about Library, list of books. Mr. C S. Sankara Narayanan undertook to have the list compiled early. Our president gave details of the new issues of stamps etc.

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



The President, Committee and Members pay their respectful homage to the departed soul and pray Almighty God to rest his soul in peace.

### Philorama : Vadopex - 91 - A Report

Baroda Philatelic Society organised the 4th District level Philatelic Exhibition VADOPEX - 91, on 1st & 2nd June 1991 at Raopura Municipal School Baroda. It was inaugurated by Shri A.K. Bhowmik, Postmaster General, Vadodara Region, Gujarat. In his inaugural speech, he stressed the importance of Philately. He released a special cover brought out by the Baroda Philatelic Society. The cover depicts importance of Prohibition. The cancellation was provided by the Postal Deptt., which shows Gandhiji and a slogan 'Philately' the king of all the hobbies.

26 Philatelists from Baroda displayed their Exhibits in 104 frames. Shri G. Madanmohandas, a veteran philatelist from Madras and shri Mansingh Nahar from Indore judged the entires and awarded prizes.

The cost of machine cancelled cover is available @ Rs.3/- each plus postage and can be obtained from Dr. Ashwin V. Patel, Near Tarkeshwar Temple, Opp Sharda Talkies, Baroda 390 001.

All communications relating to Bulletin may please be addressed to Mr. M.T. Karunakaran, Hony Editor, SIPA Bulletin, No.3, Ill Cross Street, Jayanagar, Tambaram Sanatorium, Madras - 600 047.

### SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Post Office, Madras 600 002

THIRD SUNDAY of every month - Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 8, Nannian Street, Madras 3. (Timing: 10-45 a.m. to 1: p.m.)

SIPA Library Open Tuesdays & Ill Sunday, 5, Nannian Street, Madras - 3.



# PLANNING OF A PLAN

Shri R. Binani, Convenor  
Thematic Chapter of PCI.

The present Thematic Philately is quite different from that of the earlier years when the collection consisted almost entirely of stamps ignoring cancellations postal stationery and other postal documents. Later on, it was realised that thematic philately was an entirely different discipline to traditional philately. A collection developed for a particular theme needs to tell a story and if a story is to be told logically, it is required to be divided into chapters. A story is nothing but telling every thing about the theme in a systematic manner. Here - forth starts the role of the plan of collection which every collector can develop according to his knowledge and depth of imagination regarding the subject.

There exists more or less ready - made constructed 'Plans' for individual thematic subjects. This could be followed by collectors or changed as they like. On the other hand, there could exist several construction possibilities for each subject/theme. It is our concern to find out a recipe which may be applied to all conceivable thematic subjects. For this purpose, we have to search for the common elements amongst all thematic subjects and all construction possibilities. Some of these elements are:-

Subjects	Function/Activity	Object/Product	Time	Place
Doctors	Treatment	To Cure	Different periods	Global
Gandhi	Fight for Freedom	Independant India	Once	India etc.

Such classification may also be useful for other thematic collectors who can cross reference different subjects of interest, e.g. Treatment - Doctors, Medicine, Nursing Home... etc. Thus the basic structures may be the same for different collections on the same theme/subject. In certain circumstances, it can be even copied. After giving the headings, sub-headings may be given for highlighting the finer portion of structure by which each collector retains his individuality according to his knowledge of the subject, imagination and availability of philatelic materials. This is why, two collectors, with the same theme, can produce two very different collections.

To start with, the 'Plan' should be made as exhaustive as possible. After making the 'Plan', stamps and other philatelic materials should be arranged on the album pages in line with the 'Plan'. It may be possible that in the beginning, a collector may not be in a position to show each and every part of the 'Plan' through Philatelic materials in an exhibition. In such case, the collector should omit that portion of that 'Plan' for a particular display/exhibition but the ultimate aim of the collector should be to make the collection in accordance with the exhaustive 'Plan'.

As indicated earlier a 'Plan' requires knowledge and imagination of a particular theme/subject. Such knowledge may not be possible in the beginning so the collector should always try to gather the knowledge of the theme and continue to add chapter and sub chapter in the 'Plan' whenever required. I myself have been collecting 'Flag' since 1977 and since then, have virtually changed my 'Plan' atleast 5 times.

In a nutshell, a thematic collector should seriously prepare the 'Plan' in perfection to gain 25 points allotted to 'Plan' for a thematic collection.

**HAVE YOU PAID SIPA DUES ?**

**SAY "NO" TO DRUGS — SAY "YES" TO STAMPS**

## PERMANENT SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS OF GUJARAT

S.No.	Date of Issue	Nomenclature	Cancellation
1	01 Nov., 1975	Sasangir S.O. (Dist. Junagarh) Pin : 362 135	Wild life
2.	06 Apr. 1976	Gandhi Ashram TSO Ahmedabad-27) Pin : 380 009	Hridaya Temple
3.	16 Feb. 1977	Prabhas Patna So (Dist. Jungadh) Pin : 362 268	Somnath Temple
4.	02 Apr. 1977	Modhera So (Dist. Mahesana) Pin : 384 212	Sun Temple
5.	16 Jul. 1984	Ahmedbad GPO Pin : 380 001	Window of Sidi Saiyed's Mosque
6.	16 Jul. 1984	Dwaraka P.O. (Dist. Junagadh) Pin : 361 335	Ancient Holy Temple
7.	16 Jul. 1984	Bhuj HO (Dist. Kutch) Pin : 370 001	Famous Flamings
8.	27 Mar. 1986	Palitana P.O. (Dist. Bhavnagar) Pin : 364 335	Jain Temple
9.	27 Mar. 1986	Navrangpura P.O., Ahmedabad-380 009	Step well of Adalaj
10.	27 Mar. 1986	Saputara P.O. (Dist. Bardoli) Pin 394 710	Hill Station
11.	16 Jan. 1989	Vadodara HO Pin : 390 001	Chamar Dharini
12.	16 Jan 1989	Vadodara - Fategang Pin : 390 002	Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaykwad
13.	09 Oct. 1990	Kevadia Colony PO (Dist. Bharuch) Pin : 393 151	Sardar sarovar Project

Courtesy : ASHOK K. KORA, 48, August Kranti Marg, Bombay-400 036.



# PERFINS OF INDIA

By Mr. A. K. Bayanwallah  
Calcutta

The study of Perfins, though a sideline of Indian Philately, covers a vast field. In India, perfins are used not only as a security device, but also for recording the date of the cancellation, e.g. on Share stamps and Special Adhesive stamps. They are also used by the P & T Department to change the character of Postal Stationery; the words "SPECIMEN" or "CANCELLED" are found perforated on early Indian Postal Stationery and on Hundi papers.

The word "PERFIN" is derived from "PERforated INitial". It denotes a stamp perforated with a series of small holes forming a letter or letters, numerals or a symbol, mainly for security reasons. In India, perfins are used by Government departments, semi-Government bodies (Railways, Municipalities etc. who are not allowed to use Service stamps) and private concerns who use large quantities of postage stamps, to avoid theft or misuse of the stamps by employees.

Before the invention of perfins, the stamps were tied with the envelope by the words "STAMPED" or "CANCELLED" written across the stamp and cover. As this system was not successful, the semi-Government bodies and private firms used to print their names or initials on stamps. These overprinted stamps are known as Local Overprints. This overprinting of stamps was contrary to the rules of the P & T Department and was banned in 1905.

It is not recorded when the actual use of perfins started in India, but stamps issued in 1860 are found with perforated initials, so we can safely assume that perfins were used just after their introduction in England by Mr. Joseph sloper in the year 1868. The Postal Department added a note under Clause 13 of Section 1 of the Post Office Guide Part I to promote the use of perfins, which read as follows:

"The perforation of postage stamps with initials or other identifying marks traced in minute holes is not prohibited, provided they do not render the indications regarding the country of origin and value of stamps illegible."

The use of perfins increased after 1905 when Local Overprints were strictly forbidden, but lost ground after the introduction of meter franking in 1922. At present, all private concerns except a few have switched over to meter franking. In semi-Government bodies only, Municipalities or Local bodies, mainly from the southern part of India, are using perfins. The perfin "L F S" is being used by many local bodies and thus the size varies from place to place; I have tried to record a few of these. Municipalities have also used perfins very extensively and have used different letters.

Stamps are normally fed into a perforator in such a way that the perforation reads in a normal manner when the stamp is in an upright position. Since the perforators will punch through more than one stamp at a time, sheets of stamps are folded so that the top stamps are perforated from the face while the next row will be perforated from the reverse. As no hard or fast rules were observed in feeding the stamps into the perforator, all possible varieties are found, i.e. obverse, sideways, reverse-sideways, inverted, misplaced, double and triple perforated etc.

There are many similar perfins in India, but they vary in measurements, types etc., such as A I R. This A.I.R perfin is found in three types, all used from Nagpur, as follows:

1. The size of lettering is 61/2 mm. each and there is a full stop after each letter;
2. The size of lettering is 61/2-8-61/2 mm. respectively, with full stops and a dot over the "I";

3. The size of lettering is 8 mm. and there are no full stops.

I am not dealing with all such perfins in this article.

Identifying a perfin is most difficult work. Mere imagination does not help and there is every possibility that it will lead to wrong conclusions. So it is advisable to identify a perfin with full proof and authentication - and that is possible only when perfins are collected on covers with the user's name. For example, let us take the case of the most common Indian perfin, A I R. We all know that A I R stands for "All India Radio" and so we might safely imagine that an A I R perfin must have emanated from All India Radio. But that is not so; A I R perfin is also used by the "All India Reporter" of Nagpur.

When a perfin pattern is in more than one line, a solidus (/) is used in the description to show the separation of lines.

When a perfin pattern consists of two or more letters separated by a bar as part of the design, the word "bar" is spelled out in the description.

A letter or character underlined in the list indicated that the letter has a serif, a top bar, or a foot.

The usage of perfins on Postal Stationery may be divided into three parts:

- (1) Perfined Postal Stationery;
- (2) Stamp and Postal Stationery perfined together;
- (3) Stamp perfined, but Postal Stationery not perfined.

Though perfined postal stationery is very scarce, it is still being found today. A few examples of perfined stationery are as follows:

1. 1/2 anna envelope of KEVII with "B.N.R." perfin, used by Bengal Nagpur Railway, dated 14.3.1913;
2. 1/4 anna postcard of KGV with LF/S perfin used by Taluka Board Office, Palghat, dated 2.12.1915;
3. 3/4 anna postcard of KGV with LF/S perfin used by Taluka Board Office, Palghat, dated 15.3.1918;
4. 1/4 anna postcard of KGV with RKR perfin used by Rohillund Kumaun Railway Co. Ltd., dated 25.7.1928;
5. 1/2 anna postcard of KGV with LFS perfin used by A.I. Board High school, Elapully, dated 5.7.1930;
6. 13 N.P. envelope of Independent India with M S perfin, used by Municipality from Tuticorin, dated 11.6.1958;
7. 5 N.P. postcard with L.F.S. perfin, used by Basava Raja Z.P. High School, dated 14.7.1961;
8. 25 paise on 20p Express Delivery envelope with AMC perfin, used by Adoni Municipal office, dated 24.10.1975;
9. 25 paise envelope with AMC perfin, used by Adoni Municipal Office, dated 2.1.1976.

A list of known Indian perfins, with users' names is shown in Appendix A. A list of Indian perfins of which the users' names are not known, is shown in Appendix B.

Besides Postage Stamps and Postal Stationery, perfins are found on Foreign Bill Stamps, Revenue Stamps, Receipt Stamps etc.



**LIST OF KNOWN INDIAN PERFINs WITH USER'S NAME:**

1.	A.B. (8.5 mm)	Allahabad Bank, Nainital
2.	A.B. (7 mm)	Alliance Bank of Simla Ltd Simla
3.	A.B / S LD	
4.	A.B / M.P	
5.	A. I. R	American Baptist Mission press
6.	A.M.C.	All India Reporter, Nagpur
7.	A / M.C	Adoni Municipal Corpn. Kurnool
8.	A & N / C S L	Anantapur Municipal Corpn.
9.	B (9.5 mm)	Army & Navy Civil Service Supply Ltd.
10.	B.B.	Barclays Bank
11.	B & C	Barclays Bank
12.	B & Co.	British India Corpn. Ltd., Cawnpore
13.	B & Co. LD	Burn & Co. Ltd. Liluah (W.B)
14.	B.D / & Co.	Burn & Co. Ltd. Howrah (W.B.)
15.	B.M.C.	Begg, Dunlop & Co. Calcutta
16.	B N R	Bheemunipatnam Municipal corpn.
17.	B N W R	Bengal Nagpur Railway
18.	B N / W R	Bengal North Western Railway
19.	BS	"
20.	CA / & / CO	Bengal Secretariat
21.	C / A N / S	Cooper Allen & Co. Cawnpore
22.	C B I	Army & Navy Co - Operative Society Ltd. Calcutta.
23.	C B / I	Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China (from Madras)
24.	C E S	
25.	C I / S CO	The Calcutta Electric Supply Corpn. Ltd
26.	C M	Central India spinning weaving & Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
27.	C M C	Cawnpore Municipality
28.	C W	Chilkalurpet Municipal Corpn.
29.	C W S	Court of Wards Service
30.	D A B	
31.	D B S	Deutsch Asiatische Bank, Calcutta
32.	D B S / POONA	District Board Service
33.	D L B	District Board Service, Poona
34.	D L F	District local Board
35.	D & CO	District Local Fund
36.	Co (in D)	Dykes & Co. Calcutta
37.	E	Das & Co. 15 Gossipur Rd., Calcutta.
38.	E D S	Empire Press
39.	E D S & C	Edward David Sassoon
40.	E D S & CO	Edward David Sassoon & Company Limited
41.	E I R	
42.	E / M C	East Indian Railway
43.	F / CO	Elgin Mills Company, Cawnpore
44.	F S	F & C Osler Ltd., Calcutta
45.	F S / & CO	F. Staheli & Co. P.O.Box 2074, Calcutta

46.	G A S	} General Assurance Society Ltd. Ajmer
47.	G A / S	
48.	G A / & CO	Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co. Calcutta
49.	G.G. / & / CO	Grindlay groom & Co. Bombay
50.	G H / CO	George Henderson & Co. Calcutta
51.	G W	Aachan Munich Fire Insurance Co.
52.	G & Co.	Grossmann & Co. 2 Fairlee Place, Calcutta.
53.	H & A	Hall & Anderson, Chowranghee, Calcutta
54.	H & Co	Hegt & Co. Ltd. Rangoon
55.	H S (17.5 mm)	} Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corpn. Calcutta.
56.	H S B	
57.	H S / B C	"
58.	H S / & / Co.LD.	Harperink Smith & Co. Ltd. Rangoon
59.	K & CO	Kilburn & Co. Calcutta
60.	K & CO / L	Kemp & Co. Ltd. Sassoon House Elphinstone Circle, Bombay.
61.	K My	Karachi Municipal Corpn.
62.	K P / T	Karachi Port Trust
63.	L (7 mm)	Lipton Limited, Delhi.
64.	L	Local Fund Service
(Perfins L, L F, L F S, and L F / S are being used by various Local Bodies. A few known are added in the list)		
65.	L F (6mm)	Gram Panchayat, Uravakonda
66.	L F S (5.5 mm)	A.P. Board High School, Elapully
67.	L F S (6 mm)	Palghat L.F. Office
68.	L F S (6 mm)	Parishad High School, Muramanda
69.	L F S (6.5 mm)	B.R.Z.P. High School, Punganuru
70.	L.F. / S(6.5 mm)	Palghat Taluk Board's Office
71.	L B	Local Board
72.	L F B	Local Fund Board
73.	L F D	Local Fund District
74.	L / F D	Local Fund District
75.	M (7 mm)	Martin & Co.
76.	M (15 mm)	The Muir Mills Co. Ltd. Kanpur
77.	M (17 mm)	Municipal Office, Palakole
78.	M (18 mm)	Municipal High School, Palacole
79.	M B I	The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. Madras
80.	M B I	-ditto - Calcutta
81.	M B LD	Martin Burn Limited
82.	M / H C	Hindupur Municipal Corpn.
83.	M S	Municipal Service
84.	M S / & CO	Marshall Sons & Co. Ltd
85.	N B I (6 mm)	National Bank of India
86.	N B I (7 mm)	- ditto - Calcutta
87.	N B / I	- ditto - Madras
88.	N B I (diagonal)	- ditto - Bombay



89.	N H M	Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij
90.	N M C	Narasaraopet Municipal Corpn.
91.	N S	Nagendranath Sen & Co. Ltd. 19 Lower Chitpure Road, Calcutta.
92.	NYL	New York Life Insurance Co.
93.	NYL / I C	New York Life Insurance Co.
94.	N Z / I C	New Zealand Insurance Company
95.	N Z / I C O	New Zealand Insurance Company
96.	O N / M S	On Municipal Service
97.	O R I / E N T / A L	Oriental Security Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Bombay.
98.	P.C.	P.Chrystal & Co., Bombay
99.	P & C O / L T D	Phillips & co Ltd. Bombay
100.	P D / C O	Park Davis Co. Bombay
101.	P M C	Proddature Municipal Corpn.
102.	P O S	P.Orr & Sons, Madras
103.	P & O	The Peninsular & Orient Banking Corpn. Ltd., (These perfins were used from its various branches viz. Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, therefore it varies.
107.	R (in D)	R. Ditmar, 69 Esplanade Rd., Bombay.
108.	R K R	Rohillund Kumaun Railway Co. Ltd
109.	S L A / C O.	The Standard Life Assurance Com- pany, Calcutta
110.	S L O	Standard Life Office
111.	S M N	Staamvaart Maatchappij Nederland Calcutta (Java Bengal Line)
112.	S M R	Southern Maharatta Railway
113.	S W / & C O	Shaw Wallace & Co. Calcutta
114.	S W / & C O	Shaw Wallace & Co. Bombay
115.	T (16.5 mm.)	Thacker & Co. Ltd. Bombay
116.	T C / & S	Thomas Cook & Sons
117.	T C / & / S	Thomas Cook & Sons
118.	T & C o / L D	Treacher & Co. Ltd. Byculla, Bombay
119.	T / E T	T. E. Thomson & Co. Ltd.
120.	T M / & C O	Turner Morrison & Co. Culcutta
121.	T S / & C O.	Thacker, Spink & Co. P. O. Box 54, Culcutta
122.	T. V. / C O.	Th. Vafiadis & Co. 4 Dalhousie Square, Calcutta
123.	V B	Volkart Brothers, Karachi
124.	B	Volkart Brothers, Bombay
125.	V O C O (5mm.)	Vacuum Oil Company, Bombay
126.	V O C O (5.5mm.)	Vacuum Oil Company, Calcutta
127.	A B / C o	Allen Berry & Co
128.	A.W./ & Co.	Anderson Wright & Co.
129.	B of B	Bank of Bengal
130.	BC	Bombay Company
131.	BIG	British India General Insurance Co.
132.	BL/Co	Balmer Lawrie & Co.

APPENDIX B. LIST OF INDIAN PERFIN'S WHOSE USER'S  
NAME IS NOT KNOWN:

1.	A	48.	C B F
2.	A (in lozenge)	49.	C B / I
3.	A A / & Co.	50.	C B T
4.	A A / A M	51.	C.C.G.
5.	A A / M A	52.	C D C
6.	A B C	53.	C / C M
7.	A B / & Co	54.	C D C / G M C
8.	A B / & Co	55.	C F
9.	A B / L	56.	C I B
10.	A B / S	57.	C & K
11.	A C L	58.	C L / C T
12.	A C / & C O.	59.	C L / S
13.	A & C O	60.	C M / C
14.	A / & C O	61.	C / M S
15.	A.M.	62.	C N / E P
16.	A N	63.	C N E P
17.	A T	64.	C O
18.	A T B	65.	C O X
19.	A W / & C O	66.	C R I / E N S
20.	B	67.	C T B
21.	B A N K	68.	C.U.
22.	B B / T C	69.	D
23.	B of B	70.	D (IN LOZENGE)
24.	B C	71.	D A / B
25.	B C / L	72.	D B
26.	B D B	73.	D B D
27.	B / D G	74.	D B K
28.	B E M / L A C	75.	D B / H
29.	B G R	76.	D B J
30.	B I G	77.	D B / K
31.	B J C	78.	D B / R
32.	B L B	79.	D B / W G
33.	B L / & C O	80.	D C S
34.	B.M.	81.	D D C
35.	B / M S	82.	D I B
36.	B.M / S	83.	D L / B P
37.	B N	84.	D / M
38.	B O F B	85.	D M C
39.	B.U.I.	86.	D R
40.	B.P./ & C O	87.	D S
41.	B T C	88.	D S B
42.	B (IN HEART)	89.	D S B / P O O N A
43.	C	90.	D S / B D
44.	C & C O	91.	B.T.B.
45.	C A / & C O	92.	D W / & C O
46.	C A / C M	93.	E A C
47.	C B	94.	E A / C



95. EAI	142. IC/NR	191. MB/CO	240. NUB
96. E & CO	143. IC/RN	192. MB/& CO	241. NZP
97. EDB	144. IG/SN	193. MB/CO LD	242. O
98. EJS	145. IE/LD	194. M & B /LTD	243. O & CO
99. EP	146. IG/NR	195. MBK	244. OD/V
100. EPS	147. IIS	196. MC	245. O/GM
101. E & O	148. II/SC	197. MC/M	246. OLC
102. EI	149. IMR	198. M & CO LTD	247. OMS
103. ES/C	150. IR / CO	199. MCS	248. OMT
104. F	151. ISB	200. MCD/C	249. OMV
105. FD	152. IT & CO	201. MCD/Co	250. O.R.S.
106. FF/& CO	153. ITR & CO	202. M & Co	251. OS/CO
107. F/LS	154. J	203. M & Co / C	252. OT
108. FM/& CO	155. JCB/& S	204. MC/IT	253. OU
109. FWH /& CO	156. JF & CO	205. MCD/Co/ LD	254. P & B
110. G	157. JF /& CO. LD	206. EP in M	255. PBRs
111. GB/& CO	158. JG /& CO.	207. ML	256. PB/L
112. GMC	159. JK /& CO.	208. MLB (diagonal)	257. PMC
113. GCO	160. JLB	209. ML? & Co	258. P & C/B
114. GE/H	161. JLB/& C	210. MM	259. P & CO
115. G/ES	162. JM /& C	211. MMC	260. PF/M
116. GG/& CO	163. JM/ & CO	212. MM/C	261. PI
117. GFK	164. JR	213. MM & C	262. PI/C
118. GFM/CO LD	165. JT & CO	214. MM & Co	263. PLA/CO
119. GH	166. JT /& S /LD	215. MM/Co Ld	264. PL7C
120. GH /& CO	167. K	216. MMCo	265. PL & CO
121. GLB/SS	168. KC	217. MO/C	266. PLS
122. G/MC	169KDB	218. MP/S	267. PM
123. GM/C	170. KK	219. MPS	268. P & O/CO
124. GPU	171. KL	220. M/PS	269. PP
125. GW /& CO	172. KL/F	221. MPT/E	270. PR
126. H	173. K.M.	222. MSM	271. PS
127. HERB	174. KMC	223. MPC	272. PS/AC
128. HES	175. KPT	224. MT/BS	273. PS/AG
129. H/& CO	176. KR/EB	225. MU	274. PSJ
130. HF	177. KS	226. MV	275. PS/M
131. HHNGS /RY CO LD	178. KX/LD	227. MW	276. PSK
132. HM /& CO	179. LA	228. N	277. PST
133. HR/EB	180. LB	229. NB / I Co	278. R
134. HS	181. LI	230. NE	279. RB
135. HS/BL	182. LL	231. NE/WM	280. R & C
136. H/SS	183. L.L.A.	232. NIA	281. R & C/H
137. HW/I	184. LM	233. NK/F	282. RF/CO
138. HY DI/DE	185. LF/K	234. NM	283. RG
139. I	186. LFBARK	235. N-M	284. RM
140. I & C	187. LPS	236. NR	285. R/M
141. I/CB	188. M (in circle)	237. NRI	286. RMC
	189. MAS	238. NP	287. RPG & CO
	190. MB	239. NT/LB	288. ROY
			289. ROYS
			290. Royal
			291. RS
			292. RS/V
			293. S



# THE ROMANCE OF I.N.S. PHILATELY

Mr. P. M. MEDORA, BOMBAY

The romantic past of Indian Native States of a bygone era, replete with its feudal pomp and pageantry, lures both the average and the serious collector of Indian philately into the mysterious realm of I.N.S. philately. No doubt, the political and social aspects of some of these States left much to be desired, but there were many progressive Native States who did care for their subjects and their welfare.

I shall not digress into the socio - economic - political backgrounds of the I.N.S., but restrict my comments to the Postal and Fiscal collection of I.N.S. in general. This article is not intended to be a specialist attempt to cover these branches of philately, but only as a "philatelic appetiser" to whet the juded appetite of the average and not - so - average collector.

At the time of India's Independence in August 1947, the British Raj left behind a legacy of about 652 Native States, both large and small, which created a political medley in the sub- continent, until they were absorbed into the mainstream of the Indian Republic by 1950. Of these 652 or so States, only 38 are listed by Gibbons as having issued postage stamps (32 Feudatory and 6 Convention). Later, 4 additional Feudatory States were added to this list - Sahapura, Dungarpur, Kotah and Tonk - by the eminent I.N.S. philatelist, Mr. P.M. Medhora. Though Gibbons have not listed these four States so far in their catalogue, they do exist.

Certainly a number of articles covering philatelic research have evolved around these listed States by philatelists both from India and abroad and have been published in philatelic magazines and as monograph handbooks.

A new genre of philatelic students have now started taking an interest in those States which never issued postage stamps. In such States, the Imperial Post served them with a viable postal system at par with the rest of British India. The natural adjunct to philately (collecting postage stamps, postal history, postal stationery etc. of a country) is the collecting of Fiscal stamps (Revenue, Court Fee, Stamped Papers etc.).

This dictum is never more true than with regard to the I.N.S. which have never issued postage stamps. Through

their fiscal emissions, these States could be represented as a collection, and a sizeable one at that. The number of such States could be large - up to 610 - so that one Fiscal stamp from each could make a delightful and interesting display. The hunt is on to locate how they could make a delightful and interesting display. The hunt is on to locate how many of these 610 States ever issued fiscals of their own during their existence from the British period until their merger with the Republic of India.

Indian Native States came in various odd shapes and sizes - they ranged from the large (Baroda, Mysore, Bikanir, Udaipur etc.) It may be interesting to note that some of these latter had their Princely domain extending over a few square miles only.

The American Revenue Association (A.R.A) did initially launch such a project on the I.N.S. but apparently not much has been heard since then.

In many instances, lack of material does hamper the project. No authoritative catalogues or encyclopaedias exist, except two - one by Fobin and the other by Morley, but these are incomplete in their scope of listing all the I.N.S. Besides which, they were published at the turn of the century and no revisions or new editions have been issued.

This is an exciting quest, opening up new vistas of identification, data banks etc. - one could even discover additional States that did issue postage stamps, so far unrecorded. The scope of research is unlimited and many new finds are periodically being recorded of hitherto philatelicly unknown States. Regular Revenue auctions by Robson Lowe, the India Study Circle, A. R. A. etc, are evidence of the increasing popularity of Fiscals in the I.N.S group.

A major effort to prepare a catalogue of I.N.S. fiscal stamps is now being undertaken by a group of collectors in the United States in association with the American Revenue Association. Over 200 States have already been identified as having issued fiscals, and more will certainly be uncovered. Further details of this undertaking are expected to be announced in the near future. The co-operation of I.N.S. fiscals collectors across the world will be necessary to bring the project to a successful conclusion.



# RELIGIOUS MOTIFS ON INDIAN STAMPS

By. R.B. Magal, *Hyderabad, India*

As a secular state India does not emphasize any religion or even religion per se. However as a dominant factor in the lives of all Indians, religion cannot be altogether ignored or overlooked. Hence in depicting life in India the Indian Post Office has to portray aspects of religion on its stamps. It may not endorse or even approve, but must, and does, take account of reality.

Most known religions are practiced in India. It has been traditionally a home for the persecuted. Followers of Zion, of Zoroaster, of Jesus and of Muhammad at one time or other in the long history of India came to seek asylum from persecution in their own lands where their faiths had become politically endangered. The Dalai Lama fleeing invading Chinese from his Tibetan homeland in 1953 is the latest example.

Broadly, the established faiths of India can be grouped in two. India faiths indigenous to the land, like the umbrella group of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and a variety of heterodox beliefs and those coming from the outside, broadly categorized as 'Semitic' faiths, like Judaism, Christianity, Islam in their several varieties. Zoroastrianism, though not a Semitic faith, belongs to this category.

The incoming faiths have a commitment to a monotheistic belief in one God revealed to man through His messengers. In contrast, the Indic faiths refuse to define God, though they may extol His many forms and features, leaving it to the individual to imagine the unmanifest in his own way. Since all ways are viewed as valid the indigenous faiths are not, by and large, evangelistic.

Thus all variations of religion have been welcomed and practiced in India. All these faiths find a place on Indian postal

stamps. Portraits of saints, of temples and of shrines of events in religious history appear on these stamps. In keeping with the secular policy, India pictures religious individuals or institutions not necessarily as saints and temples but more as contributors to the heritage of the vast variety that is India. Saints are leaders of men and moulders of thought, temples are beautiful buildings or archaeological monuments.

With the exception of Zoroastrianism, so far, all religious faiths have been represented on India's stamps. Theocratic states may have more stamps with religious motifs than India, but, by definition, those stamps would be restricted to reflect but one of man's several ways of reaching out to the infinite.

Even before Independence some of the very few pictorial stamps of India, the King George V Silver Jubilee set included four stamps depicting shrines in different parts of the country. After Independence the first definitive series had a number of statues and temples portrayed. Since then centennials and other celebrations have been special occasions for the release of stamps with religious motifs in India.

The Saint Singers (Great Integrators - as they have been called) have a special place in Indian Life, and on Indian stamps. Singing of the infinite and of His grace, in the form of their ISHTADEVATAS on individual Cultic forms, they have throughout Indian history in every age helped renew faith. The saints both of the past, and those living with us today are viewed as part of God's merciful bounty on man. Many Indian stamps portray saints.

The Buddha, Mahavira, the Sikh Gurus, and founders of faiths form another strain in Indian stamp issues. Modern developments in Indian religions like the Arya Samaj, The Bramho Samaj and the Ramakrishna Missions form yet another strain.

By the middle of 1991 India had issued at least 150 stamps with religious motifs; of these Sixty five carried portraits of saints or religious leaders and the rest portrayed temples, institutions or other religious insignia.