



SIPA Bulletin

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Bimonthly

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION (FOUNDED 1956) (AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

OUR MONTHLY MEETING OF JULY & AUGUST

35 and 29 Members were present respectively with the President occupying the Chair. There were lively discussions on Philately and members evinced keen interest in getting to know the latest trend in philately and were opposed to the high issue of Commemorative stamps from our Department of posts. A few suggestions on how to improve their exhibits were given. With a hot cup of tea the meetings came to a close.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, CANADA, MARCH, 1992 Indian Commissioner Mr.S. SAHOO.

Dear Philatelist,

In connection with the International Youth Exhibition held in Canada during March, 1992, Col. ShenoI has suggested earlier to get the maximum possible youth exhibits from this country. Both from the point of view of the number of participants, and the awards won for the exhibits, we fared rather badly in DUSSELDORF - 90. Even Indonesia did better than us. We would see to it that the participation in Canada is of better standard. It is necessary to be in touch with youth collectors, whose exhibits may be recommended for participation in Youth, International.

The problem is made more tough this time as there has not been any National Exhibition recently, nor is one likely to be held in sufficient time this year to help find good youth exhibits. Under the circumstances I would suggest the following process to get at good exhibits suitable for International participation:- As per suggestion of Col. L.G.ShenoI, I am writing to the chief P.M.G.s of different States to ascertain the names and addresses of the youth exhibitors whose exhibits were awarded a Silver or higher medal. I am also writing to the Philatelic Societies in the States for finding out whether the exhibitor can be expected to improve the standard of the exhibits as advised by the societies. Young exhibitors whose collections are recommended by the societies in the above manner may be allowed to send their application for participation.

At Dusseldorf there was a competition for young philatelists who had to be physically present at the exhibition

and compete in developing a collection on the given theme. There, they had allowed upto two teams from each country. Our country had sent one team, consisting of two young philatelists and an adult leader to take part in the competition. They had to travel at their own expense, but were given Boarding and Lodging by the organisers. I am asking and enquiring whether such a scheme would be included in any exhibition. I am awaiting eagerly our readers responses to the above suggestions of Col.L.G.ShenoI.

Yours sincerely,
S. SAHOO.

SIPA MEETINGS

SECOND SUNDAY of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Post Office, Madras - 600 002. (10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.)

FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY of every month - Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 6, Nannian Street, Madras - 3
(Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1. p.m.)

SIPA Library Open Tuesdays & Sunday, 6, Nannian Street, Madras - 3. 7p.m. to 8 p.m.

All communications relating to Bulletin may please be addressed to

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SIPA Bulletin, 41, Perumal Mudali Street,
Sowcarpet, Madras - 600 079.

Integrity has no need for rules
- Albert Camus

Records of Posts & Telegraph

Earliest postal communication:

In India, the earliest evidence of a systematic courier service was found during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya (321-297 BC) when intelligence and confidential reports were despatched from the Emperor at the capital to the outlying provinces of the vast country and vice versa.

First post office

The East India Company established their first post office in 1727 in the white residential area of Calcutta. The post office was originally located in old post Office Street, for which it was named. In 1762, this was shifted to the Court House building on Old Court House Street in Calcutta

First Postmaster General

The first postal system established by Lord Clive in 1766 was further reorganized by Warren Hastings on January 17, 1774 on a better regulation of dawki, by which the private letters from the public could be despatched through the company's dawki, for the first time, on payment of a fee. The plan established the first Imperial Post office - Calcutta General Post Office under a Postmaster General on March 31, 1774. The first Postmaster General was a Mr. Redfern.

First General Post Office (GPO)

Madras GPO started operations on June 1, 1786 on the beach in Fort St. George Square.

Oldest post Office in use

The first post office in Calcutta which was merged with Calcutta GPO is probably the oldest post Office still in use.

First Postal Act

Act XVII of 1837 was passed by the Governor General in Council on the July 24, 1837 in Calcutta which gave the post office the exclusive right of conveying letters by post from place to place within the territories of East India Company.

First window delivery of letters

Madras GPO introduced window delivery of letters in 1850.

First Stamp

The Scinde Dawki (Provincial) was issued on July 1, 1852 by Sir Bartle Frere, the Commissioner of Sind on July 1, 1852 in Karachi with the denomination of half anna. All India stamps for half anna and one anna were issued on October 1, 1854. Four anna stamps were issued on October 15, 1854.

First Letter Box

One of the greatest reforms in the history of the Indian post office took place in October 1854 with the introduction of letter boxes sited away from post office.

First Postmen

Postal reforms carried out in the year 1840 in Bengal improved the system and brought some regularity in the delivery work. The postmen or delivery peons were engaged on security bond with some specific responsibility. They were dressed in uniform and badges supplied by the post

offices, all at the cost of the poor native Indians. They were, however, allowed to earn a bakshish or tip of two pies on each vernacular letter delivered, in addition to collection of to the post office.

First Registration Mail Service (RMS)

The first instance of registration by the post office, to secure safety for coins and documents in transit was found in an official advertisement published on February 20, 1795. The actual registration post however was introduced in Bombay Presidency on November 1, 1849 by a postal notice issued on October 16, 1849 by the Postmaster General, Bombay. In Bengal, it was established at Calcutta GPO on January 1, 1851 and subsequently at Madras GPO. The fee in all cases was 8 annas for registering a letter.

First Insured Mail Service

The system of insurance post for letters and parcels was introduced in the Indian postal department on January 1, 1878. The rate of insurance fee in addition to registration of postage charge was based on a scale of 1/2 % of the amount insured without limit.

Denominations of First Stamps.

In October 1854, stamps of the following denominations were issued:

1/2 anna and 1 Anna October 1; 2 Annas October 6 and 4 Annas October 15.

Highest/Lowest denominations of stamps.

In 1902, the lowest denomination was 3 pies and the highest was Rs.25. At present it ranges from 2 paise to Rs. 50. On 1, April, issued in NP stamps.

Rarest stamp

The finest of the three known cut square copies of India's rarest four anna head inverted two-colour stamps were inadvertently printed upside down in the second operation. A stamp of 1854 was sold by Harners in the 'Raja' auction of Indian stamps on May 10, 1988 at London for Stg. £52,800. This copy was discovered in the collection of a New Zealand school girl- Mary Lynch of Levin, and brought to Harners in 1954, the centenary year of the issue of this stamp. It was then sold for Stg. £ 725.

Post office Savings Bank Account

The concept of banking with a post office instead of a bank was revolutionary. Post Office Savings Bank was introduced in April 1, 1882.

First Postcard

The P&T department issued the first post card on July 1, 1879.

First VPP service

Sending inland parcel by value payable post (VPP) was introduced in India with effect from December 1, 1877, on demand from the Traders' Community of Calcutta.

First Commemorative stamp

A set of six stamps were issued on February 9, 1931 on the occasion of the inauguration of New Delhi. These

were the first pictorial stamps depicting the important landmarks of New Delhi.

First State to issue a stamp (pre- Independence)

Kathiawar State in Saurashtra (later Junagadh) issued an one Anna Stamp Nov. 1864.

First stamp of Independent India

A three-and - a - half anna stamp with the inscription 'Jai Hind' was issued on November 21, 1947.

Stamps with pictures of most national leaders

Two stamps in the one rupee denomination brought out in 1985 during the centenary celebrations of the Indian National Congress had 29 and 32 pictures respectively of national leaders who had been presidents of the Congress Party.

Maximum stamps on theme

Since may 1988, 34 stamps have been issued on the Freedom Fighter series.

Biggest stamps

The Biggest stamps ever issued were the ones commemorating

-Bach and Handel (Rs.5, issued on December 17, 1985)

-Forty Years of Freedom (1947-87) (60 paise, issued on August 15, 1987)

-First war of Independence 1857 (60 paise issued on May 9, 1988)

-A Radha of the Kishangarh School (20 paise)

All four stamps measured 5.8 cm. x 3.91 cm.

First National Leader to appear on a stamp

The first national leader to be honoured with a stamp issued in his memory was Mahatma Gandhi on August 15, 1948.

Most stamps honouring an Indian

The maximum stamps issued for an Indian personality the worldover are of Mahatma Gandhi . More than 80 stamps of Gandhiji have been issued from 42 countries .

Largest collection of wildlife stamps

DR Mistry of Bombay collects wildlife stamps. Today, he has more than 20,000 wildlife stamps carefully pasted onto 1,200 album pages. Some of the rare stamps date back to the 19th century. When Mistry held an exhibition of his stamp in 1967, it was the first wildlife stamps in the world

First Air - Mail

India became the first country in the world to send mail by plane when 6,500 letters and post cards were flown from Allahabad to Naini on February 18, 1911.

In 1920 an abortive attempt was made by the Indian postal Department to start an air Mail service between Bombay and Karachi and vice-versa. Only 14 trips were made and the experiment was given up for lack of support from the public.

In April 1929, the first regular airmail service between India and England was established. In the same year an inland airmail service was also established between Karachi and Delhi.

Another postal first was achieved when India became the first country in the world to issue a special set of air Mail stamps in 1929.

First Air letter

The first air letter was introduced on May 23, 1945. It was priced at 6 annas. In the session of XIIIth Congress of IPU in Brussels held in may 1952, it was resolved that the airletter should be called aerogramme.

First Philatelic Exhibition

The Philatelic Society of Bengal held an exhibition of postage Stamps at the Art Gallery of the Government School of Arts in Calcutta in December 1894.

Largest Philatelic Exhibition

The Indian International Stamps Exhibition, India '80, organized in New Delhi by the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department and the Philatelic Congress of India from January 26 to February 3, 1980 was the largest philatelic exhibition held in India . About four lakh stamps were on display in some 3,500 display frames. 482 participants from 40 countries including India, participated in the competitive classes with 555 exhibits, 103 countries entered the official class. India 80' was the first International stamp exhibition held in Asia under the patronage of the Federation of International Philately (FIP).

Only girl at Dusseldorf '90

Keerthi Sangoram of Bangalore was the only girl to represent India at the International Philatelic Exhibition-cum-competition held in Germany. She also won the large silver' in the fourth Asian International philatelic Exhibition, held in Thailand, 1991.

First Indian President of FIP

Shri. D.N. Jatia reputed philatelist and Vice President of FIP was elected President at its 59th Congress held in London on the May 14, 1990. He is the first non-European and Indian elected to the post .

First drive-in Post Office

The first drive-in post office was inaugurated on November 11, 1975 at Pune in Maharashtra.

Only pigeon-post Office

Cuttack in Orissa has the only pigeon-post station in India, Started in 1946, it consists of 940 pigeons stationed at Cuttack, Chatrapur, Kendrapara, Sambalpur and Dhenkanal. The post is run by the police.

Longest time taken for domestic delivery

A post card sent from Lucknow on May 18, 1981 addressed to a trading company at Raja Darwaza, Varanasi, reached its destination after almost eight years on December 1, 1988.

Dead letters records

The unclaimed letter department came into existence during 1834-37. The post office Act of 1837 outlines the manner for the treatment of unclaimed letters. The Dead Letter office was however organised under the provision of the Act of 1854.

First letter to post office in space

Prolific letter writer Reagan Jones, is the first to send a letter to the post office in space. He sent the letter from

Vandiperyar P.O. to the Soviet Consulate General in Madras who sent it on to Moscow. Using radio waves, Moscow sent it to the post office in space. The letter contained a message of greetings to space scientists. It said, I am an Indian. My countrymen and myself pray for the success of your investigation in outer space.'

Cancellation of mail in space

Lakshman Prasad of Aligarh invented a special equipment with rotary wheels for cancellation of mail in space in 1983. A special ink was also manufactured for the operation of the equipment. The cancellation equipment was successfully used by Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma on space craft Salyut -7 on his historic flight.

First parcel service

The parcel post originated in India as Bhangy post solely used for the conveyance of official records and articles for the East India Company with a maximum limit of 600 tolas. Bhangy post was first introduced on December 2, 1784.

The regulation for Dawk Bhangy was revised on October 21, 1802 for acceptance of Bhangy parcel from individuals.

First money orders

The Imperial Post Office took over the management of the money order business on January 1, 1880 from the local treasuries.

First Telegraph Line

The first telegraph line was installed by Dr. William B. O'Shaughnessy, an Irish professor at Calcutta Medical College. It was 33.8 km. and went from Calcutta towards Diamond Harbour. It took in a 213.4m 670 ft. river crossing.

Research Groups. - Refugee Relief Stamps

We now have a nationwide membership of nearly 400 members and as your research coordinator I would like to draw on this vast source of information in order to live up to our ideals as a Study Circle. How best to achieve this aim is the purpose of this note.

Should any member wish to start a study group, they should contact me in the first instance with :

1. A title of the subject
2. A clear idea of the objective
3. The type of information they wish to have and the form that this information should take:

- Illustrations
- Photocopies
- Written notes etc

I shall then publish their request in Sipa Bulletin, and hope that members will help with the study which will enhance our knowledge of Indian Philately and Postal History. This is after all the purpose of our society. If the study gathers steam and is in sufficient depth, we would decide whether it should be a part of the handbook

First Telegraph Machines

The first telegraph machines were introduced on October 4, 1851 at Calcutta and Diamond Harbour. Eight electric telegraph offices in Bengal were opened to the public on February 1, 1855 with the Headquarters of the Superintendent at Hare street, Tank Square, Calcutta. They were.

CALCUTTA: BoBaile, Inspector Incharge with 12 signallers and 7 writers.

ATCHEEPORE: (ACHIPORE) : Koylas Chunder Banerjee, Asstt.. incharge with 2 Signallers.

HOOGLY POINT: Kedernath Chatterjee, with 2 signallers.

DIAMOND HARBOUR: Peary Mohan Dass, with 3 signallers and 2 writers.

KOOKRAHATTY: (other side of Diamond Harbour on the river Hooghly in the district of Midnapore) EJD Rozaria with 2 signallers.

MUD POINT: F Stacey, with T Bell and W Wilson with two Probationers.

KEDGEREE/KHERJUH : J Hourigan and one signaller.

SAUGOR: JH Boronwick, with one signaller.

Electric telegraph was converted into Morse System in the year 1957.

Maximum telegrams

Tamil Nadu had 8,62,31,791 telegrams sent over a three-year period from January 1988.

Most telegraph offices

The highest number of telegraph offices are in Tamil Nadu-5,571.

or even a monograph. At the least, it will be published in the SIPA Bulletin. All participants in a study will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses by the society.

We now come to the tricky question of how to stimulate our members to participate in a study. We are all busy, and it is very easy to sit back and think, let someone else do the work and we will reap the benefit. There are ways by which we can make participation easier, for instance, if the leader of the group publishes his preliminary data in a form which requires fillings in gaps for information, then members would surely comply. If there are any members who have views on how best to make it easy for members to participate, then please write to me and we will try to implement their ideas.

Visit Bangkok 1993

Queen Sirikit National
Convention Center, 1 - 10 October 1993
Bangkok world Philatelic Exhibition 1993
Further details contact :
G. Madan Mohan Das,
Indian Commissioner - Bangkok '93

INCIDENTS WITH POSTMEN

Collected by:

H. N. Verma

DAYS when postmen rang a bell while passing down the streets have not faded the memory lane. The sound was generally welcome but once a way some one took offence. Such an incident is recorded in the archives of British Post Office of the year 1701 when a prominent lady wrote to her husband, "The bell rings and makes me lose the happiness of fancying I am talking with my dear, to whom I am sincerely, ever your most affectionate."

The picture of London of 1805 mentions "Houses or boxes for receiving letters before 4 O' clock at the west end of the town and 5 O' clock in the city are open in every part of metropolies, after that hour bellmen collect letters, receiving a fee of one penny for such letter." Pillar boxes have been the death of the bellmen.

A rural postman was known as 'walking post office'. He sold stamps, received letters for posting, took even registered letters and sold postal orders. The marching orders of a town postman were: "A postman when he has once started on his walk must not go to his own house or to any other except to deliver letter, he must not smoke on duty, he must not deliver letter to owners in the street, but only at the house to which they are addressed, he must not put letters under doors even if asked to do so, he must not take letters from the public for registration, he must carry on other missions than those that have been regularly posted, he must not act as a news agent, must not borrow money from persons on his walk; he must not agitate or help in any agitation for a discontinuance of Sunday work, and he must not in any way be connected with a public house or inn".

Once a gentleman suggested to a postman that it would do him immense good during his holiday if he rested his tired limbs on the beach. "Good gracious, no", he replied "I go on a walking tour. I have done the Lakes, Wales and Scotland. You see, Sir it is really a change of movement for me, we shuffle." The mirror portrayed him: "He literally walks through a whole existence transacting small government bargains with no time to risk or stand or think of the iniquities, real or imaginary, of his political masters. We never heard of a postman being concerned in a conspiracy. If a postman start in life with a dapper figure shall he not be slim and elegant to the last. Is he not certain of carrying to the grave his original greyhound out-line? Govt. shuns him, corpulency visits him not, while exercise crowns him with its gifts.

A mailman was told by a motorist in peremptory tones to shift to the side on a narrow road. The mailman refused to budge. Language common from the motorist. But the mailman merely remarked with dignity. "Every minute you detain me, you are detaining His Majesty's mails. You must make way for me". The car backed.

A postman was asked to explain "for frequently departing from the direct and proper route to the starting point of your delivery in order to call in at your home". The reply of the postman should appeal to our hearts: "My reason for the above was for no other purpose than I told the clerk when he questioned me on that point-to let my wife know what time I should likely to return to breakfast. It must also be understood that I have only been married a few weeks and am very anxious to return to my wife when others of longer experience might be glad to keep away. I also told the clerk I would in future turn to the left instead of the right. Remaining your obedient servant". The Head Postmaster recommended that the postman should be reprimanded but that "the local sub-postmistress should be continued to keep a better look out on the movement's of the men under her control". Like the postman, the sub-postmistress probably knew that his was an offence which time would cure.

In reply to explain why he was late by ten minutes the postman stated that he had been "Reveling in Nature".

A postman appearing in private trousers was taxed with the disappearance of the official trousers. He explained that after a shower of rain he had hung them on a fence to dry and had subsequently found that they had been eaten by cow. Another postman had a painful story to relate; "Sir, the postal stores sent for the last light overcoat and cap Saturday last. I am sorry to say that a little accident occurred to the coat in the wintry wet weather; while my Mrs. was drying the coat its tail caught fire and was damaged and then I was obliged to cut it three quarters size and find it very useful in the morning of fine weather". Evidently a resourceful postman. No dearth of such knowledgeable postman in India also.

The number of postwomen is increasing in India also. Mrs. Jane Wost was left a widow with a stepson, when she was 46 years old and then she took up the duties of postwoman. Her daily round was 16 and 17 miles a day and she maintained this for over 30 years. Only twice during these years had she been off duty, both absence being due to sprains to hands and ankles.

Not everybody thrives under this regular and exhausting labour.

"Well, Mrs. Briggs", said a visitor, "I am sorry your husband is poor: I think a little exercise would do him good." And Mrs. Briggs said sadly, "I am afraid it has done him harm, he has been a letter carrier for 20 years".

A rural postman who had a wooden leg made use of a donkey and cart, but it was found out after his resignation that finding a difficulty in getting in and out of the cart he carried with him a tin bucket full of large stones. These he hurled at the front door when occasion demanded. An original postman's knock, certainly a resourceful postman!

FINDING OTHERS WHO COLLECT

Many of us know where you can get stamps, what to collect, soaking and saving stamps, and organizing your collection.

Now that you've begun to build a collection, let's talk about becoming a philatelist and learning about tools and information that you can use to really enjoy stamp collecting—world's most popular hobby.

The basic stamp collecting tools you will need are the album and hinges or mounts for affixing the stamps. There are two other tools that the stamp collector considers essential.

Stamp tongs are used for handling stamps without damaging them or getting them dirty. Although they look like tweezers, they are not. Stamp tongs have special rounded ends and will not pierce or damage a stamp. Although your hands should be clean when handling stamps, use the tongs to handle stamps. Or your fingers can damage stamps.

Another "must-have" for the collector is a price guide or catalogue of some sort. The Gibbons catalogs of whole world stamps are popular, inexpensive price guides.

A colorful guide from the United States Postal Service is available at your local post office for a reasonable fee. The Postal Service Guide to Stamps also contain much useful information for the beginner. The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue is a good source for finding out about the world's stamps. Although current editions are too expensive for beginning collector to consider purchasing, they can be found most in public libraries and Associations.

As you become more familiar with your stamps, a few other tools can be added to your equipment.

Once beyond the basics, all stamp collectors need a perforation gauge, watermark fluid and tray, and color guide. Again, a stamp dealer or an experienced collector will be able to help you in learning the proper use of these tools.

Stamp collecting can be more fun if you find others who collect stamps. Ask your friends, perhaps they are collectors themselves, or know someone who is. Check at your school to see if they have a stamp club. The Ben Franklin Stamp Clubs are sponsored by the United States Postal Service and are growing in number. If no stamp club exists, speak to your teacher or principal. Perhaps they would be willing to help organize one. They can do so by requesting free support materials from your local postmaster.

Frequently, larger populated areas will have either a city or country stamp club. Inquire at the library, post office, stamp store, or of your collecting friends to see if they know of a stamp club in your area. Stamp clubs are a fun way to meet, new collectors, obtain new stamps, and learn more about the hobby. Visit the philatelic windows at larger post offices. Visit your local stamp store. They may be helpful to you in pursuing the hobby.

Find a penpal from a foreign country, preferably one who collects stamps. You would gain much knowledge about the culture, history and geography of another country. You might even trade stamps through the mail. At the very

least, you will get their country's stamps on your mail. Be sure to use commemorative stamps on the mail to your penpal.

Join a stamp collecting organization. There are many groups, perhaps some that even specialize in a collecting area that you are interested in. Most specialized organizations and local stamp clubs are affiliated with the Philatelic Congress of India, a national society of nearly 60,000 members.

One of the best ways to meet young collectors such as yourself is to join yourself in Nehru stamp clubs in schools.

This is the only youth-oriented organization in the India that brings collectors from the world together. Information on joining can be had from Circle Philatelic officers located the Chief P.M.G.'s in various circles on the department of the posts.

Many stamp collecting groups sponsor stamp shows, which can vary from an afternoon "bourse" which features several dealers from the area to three or four day exhibitions which include displays by other collectors. Many of these exhibitions include special areas for young people to learn more about the hobby and add new stamps to their collections for free or at a reduced cost. You can find out about these shows in stamp collector publications, in your local papers, or from stamp stores in your area. Try to attend the next show in your area!

Stamp collector who have the most fun with their stamps are the ones who learn the most about their hobby. Reading available literature will help to make your collecting experiences even more fun.

Next time you go to the library, check the card catalog under the subject "Stamps" or "Stamp Collecting". Check out the books. See if the library has any stamp collecting newspapers or magazines. Many of the stamp collecting newspapers or magazines will send you a copy free or at a nominal charge.

A trip to your local stamp dealer or stamp show will also help you find a few basic books about stamp collecting.

Next time you are browsing in a book store, check to see what stamp collecting books are available.

Many national philatelic organizations and their special study groups have newsletters, magazines and books to help you in learning more about stamp collecting. There are a lot of books about stamps enough to fill a library for stamp collectors!

Stamp collecting is fun but finding someone to share the hobby will pave the way to ensuring your hobby will last a life time!



A Philatelic passage through India

In mythology, and the literature of ancient India, the idea of the messenger had stirred the imagination of poets. They wrote of the clouds and the deer, the gods and the swan as being carriers of news. But those were flights of fancy.

Meanwhile, as numerous kingdoms in this immense land mingled to form empires, need arose for more efficient systems of communications. Horses, bullocks and camels were used, in relays, each of a few miles. In medieval India, postal runners became increasingly popular despite the dangers they were exposed to—dangers that arose from the dacoits and wild animals that stalked the land, and from the vagaries of climate. These runners, integral to Mughal times, were used well into the eighteenth century, and mainly to facilitate the administration of the land. But gradually a more organised network evolved which enabled transmission of private communication. In 1774, the prepayment of postage by handstruck stamps known as a Bishopmark, was introduced in Calcutta.

In an effort to maintain and popularise the postal service, the first stamps were issued in India in 1852, in the province of Sind. They were embossed pieces of paper with a circular design in red, blue or white and were known as "Scinde Dawks". Their use was restricted to Sind and the Bombay-Karachi route. In 1853, stamps were prepared at the Mint in Calcutta. But since 1925, they have been printed exclusively at the India Security Press, Nasik, Maharashtra.

The first stamps of Independent India commemorated the birth of a nation, and were known as the Jai Hind series. Since then there have been six definitive issues and

numerous commemorative ones, totalling to almost one thousand stamps. An imaginative policy, coupled with modern printing technology, has led to Indian stamps being more than mere postal currency. They form a kaleidoscope, reflecting the many images of India. A country that reaffirms its heritage, even it is alive to the present and conscious of the future.

Some of the finest commemorative stamps highlight Indian culture. Exquisite monuments, sculptures, handicrafts and paintings are a part of this cultural wealth. But there are traditions too, that have survived the centuries and are alive today in religious ritual, in classical dance, in music. As a country of natural beauty, there is an exotic range of stamps on its flora and fauna. In its wildlife sanctuaries, precious animals and birds are protected in their natural habitat; tigers, lions, one-horned rhino, Siberian cranes.. The Himalayas are more than beautiful retreat, for they are open to mountaineering, trekking and winter sports.

A keen awareness of the present and future is reflected in the definitive series, of India as a country progressing towards self-sufficiency, modernization and industrialisation. And of the importance of a strong scientific and technological base to sustain progress. Of India as a host to international events, striving for peace..

Come, discover our land through stamps....

(Extracted from the 1987 Diary produced by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India)

Book Review

"C.E.F., THE CHINA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, 1900 - 1923"; D.S. Virk, John C. Hume, Derek Lang and Gerald Sattin. Published jointly by the Philatelic Congress of India and the Army Postal Service Association, New Delhi, 1992. Price £25. in U.K. and Rs. 1,000 in India. Available from Messrs. Vera Trinder Limited, London.

This publication will be fascinating to those interested in the history of both India and China, and to postal historians and philatelists alike. It starts off with a background of the Expedition sent to deal with what was known as the 'Boxer Rebellion'. This in itself is an intriguing story, and then it goes on to explain the arrangements made to deal with mail, not only between India and China, but to other parts of the world.

We take so much for granted in the mail services, but this book sets out of the complicated organisation that has to be set up, and it is well worth reading just to get an appreciation of what is involved.

SIPA BULLETIN

Reasons are given as to the necessity to overprint India stamps with the letters 'C.E.F.' Illustrations are given of covers sent from the Base Office and the various F.P.Os, and these are followed with a very comprehensive record of the different types of Postmarks introduced, where used, and the earliest and latest date of use of each.

Voluminous extracts are given from the diaries of W.T. Van Someren, Chief Superintendent, F.P.Os. and of his successor, A.B. Thompson, that give an insight to the Postal Arrangements throughout the Campaign and afterwards.

The Book is well printed (one or two printer's errors) on stout glossy paper, with a hardback cover and an attractive dust-cover. Two hundred and seventy pages of excellent material, recommended to PostalHistorians and Philatelists - in fact a 'must' for collectors of stamps and covers of this period.

MOPHILA - SALON

GUIDELINES FOR THE REALIZATION OF A 'MOPHILA SALON' AT FIP EXHIBITIONS

These guidelines apply to all FIP Exhibitions which propose to include a Mophila Salon.

ARTICLE 1 VALIDITY

In order to promote stamp collecting and in order to present creative and innovating ways to deal with stamps and postal documents, and to point out the attractiveness of the present philatelic work as documentations of culture, history and spirit of our age the FIP proclaims the following guidelines.

The FIP recommends the arrangement of MOPHILA SALONS at FIP Exhibitions under the Experimental Class. The arrangement of such a Salon will be up to the organizer of each exhibition. The scope to be allocated should generally amount to at least 50 frames, but not more than 150 frames for a maximum of 3 to 5 frames of every exhibit.

ARTICLE 2 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

There is no division of classes, groups or grades. Exhibitors can be single collectors or groups of collectors of any age, institutions, members or non-members of the FIP. When oversubscribed, preference will be given to first timers.

ARTICLE 3 CONTENTS OF AN EXHIBIT

The exhibits may show postal stamps and documents issued within the last ten years in a way the collector is free to choose. They are permitted to choose all forms of philatelic collections having direct relations to the chosen subject and displayed items. The exhibits may be developed chronologically, thematically or otherwise. The manner of presentation is totally up to the exhibitors. However, there should be an introductory statement.

ARTICLE 4 FEES

No fees will be charged for exhibits of the "MOPHILA SALON". The costs for the submission of exhibits will be paid by the exhibitors. The return of exhibits will be governed by Article 51 of GREX.

ARTICLE 5 APPLICATION AND DECISION ON ACCEPTANCE

The announcement for the arrangement of a MOPHILA SALON must be included in the individual regulations for the exhibitors (IREX). The application for participation must be submitted through the Commissioner of the country in which the applicant resides. The commissioner shall forward it together with the applications for the other competition classes. The exhibition management decides whether an application is accepted or rejected.

ARTICLE 6 PRESENTATION AND EVALUATION

The MOPHILA SALON has to be placed in conspicuous area of the exhibition, not necessarily next to or among the competition classes.

There will not be any evaluation by the exhibition jury. Instead a free evaluation by the visitors of the exhibition is foreseen. In this case the exhibition management will provide for respective voting forms.

Each participant (exhibitor) will be awarded a Souvenir medal in remembrance of the exhibition. This medal will be forwarded by the exhibition management. Whenever an evaluation by the public takes place, the results of the three best estimated exhibits will be mentioned in the certificates as well as in the Palmars. It is also permitted to award the best estimated exhibit a MOPHILA TROPHY.