



# SIPA *Bulletin*

For Circulation to Members only

Vol. 13 No.3

May - June '92

Bimonthly

## SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

### May Month Minutes Present 28 Members.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries, the Meeting was called to order by Mr. D.H. Rao, our Vice-President. Mr. Rao called upon the members present to introduce themselves and tell their collecting interests. The exchange of ideas was really an eye-opener to many. He also wanted to devise ways and means to improve the attendance at the monthly meetings. Various suggestions were given. Mr. G. Balakrishnanadas and Shri G. Amarchand, our Secretary and Treasurer gave assurance that the Generalbody Meeting of the Association will be held in August and that the delay is due to their health reasons.

Then Shri G. MADANMOHANDAS, our President, who joined the Meeting, wanted to give his TALK on JUNIOR PHILATELY. Just then, Shri P.S. SESHADHRI who is keen in the Juniors 'Philately promotion narrated his sad experience, how the "Chapter for Promotion of Youth Philately" under the auspices of the Philatelic Congress of India has failed even to acknowledge receipt of the 85 Junior entries sent by him and 39/45 by Mrs. P. Thomas. Mr. Madanmohandas assured the members that the 8th Biannual General body Meeting of PCI is going to be held at Bangalore in June & that suitable reply is got from the PCI Chairman for CPYP.

Shri Seshadhri then gave details of the workshop conducted by him in the five/six schools near AVADI and how avid the Juniors are to have the classes being conducted by him. Mrs. P. Thomas then gave a talk on Promotion of Philately amongst the Juniors by display and exhaustive talk. This was very well appreciated by the members present.

Then Shri G. Madanmohandas gave a few suggestions and also requested members to encourage juniors by giving them a packet of used stamps and accessories.

With a hot cup of Tea, the meeting came to a close.

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Tambaram Sanatorium, Madras - 600 047.

### June Month Minutes 30 Members present.

The Meeting was called to order. Minutes of the last monthly meeting read and adopted. New Members got themselves introduced. Mr. D.H. Rao showed some special covers that he got from the Caption of two Russian Ships which were in Madras. Announcements regarding new issues and Special Cancellations and withdrawals were announced. Then Shri G. Madanmohandas gave a talk on INVESTMENT IN STAMPS. If anyone dared to take up stamp collection as an investment, then he said he better give up the same as stamp collecting is mainly a pleasurable and educative hobby which fasters brotherhood of nations and gives scope for observation and development of one's own Judgement and clear perception of one's own collection.

It is not all stamps that are going to appreciate. So none have the illusion of stamp collecting as an investment. Far from it, the investor may as well invest his spare money in Stocks and Shares. Many members were anxious to know when the State Level and National Exhibitions will be held.

The PHILATELIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE has been reconstituted. Col.L.G. Shenoj, President of PCI, Shri Vispi S. Dastur from Bombay, Shri A.R. SINGHEE from Hyderabad; Dr.D.J. Banerjee from Calcutta and Mr. A.S. Mittal from Jaipur have been nominated for the new reconstituted Philatelic Advisory Committee Department of post Government of India, New Delhi. Local Advisory Committee has also been reconstituted. with Shri G. Madanmohandas, our Association President and Shri N.S. Nahar of Aurobindo Ashram from Pondicherry have been nominated. After a few more questions from the audience, the meeting came to a close with a hot cup of tea.

### 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.)

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 & III Sunday, 6 Nannian Street, Madras - 3.7p.m. to 8 p.m.

### APPLY FOR PROVISIONAL ENTRY FORMS BEFORE 15.9.92

#### 1. Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das,

Indian Commissioner - Bangkok - 93. (1 - 10 Oct 1993.) 41, Perumal Mudali St., Sowcarpet, Madras - 600 079.

#### 2. Mr. P. Gupta,

Indian Commissioner Brasilina -93. Rio ( 30.7.93 to 8.8.1993)

C/o. Infar (India)Ltd., 7, Wood Street, Calcutta 700 016.

# Stamp Collecting

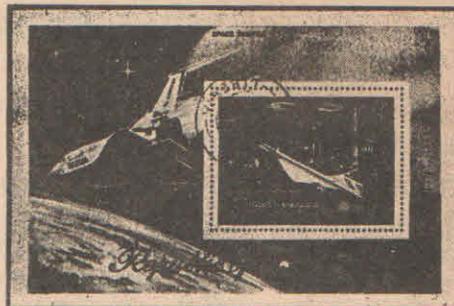
## Hobby of Thousand faces

Stamp collecting is the hobby of a thousand faces. So wrote Stanley Phillips in his monumental work, *Stamp Collecting*, a major textbook that went through eight printings and editions from 1932-65. Phillips was at one time editor of the Stanley Gibbons catalogs.

Phillip's book ends with Chapter 32, titled "The hobby of a thousand faces." He concludes the book by saying that there is something in stamp collecting for everyone, so much so in fact that "even a library would not suffice to tell the story," and "cold print can never do justice to the feelings of the enthusiast."

One of the places to very quickly see many of these 1,000 faces is the listing of the American Philatelic Society's "Affiliates and Units." It is published every other November as part of a supplement in the APS' *American Philatelist* magazine.

Each group brings together collectors who are interested in meeting others with the same collecting interests. Group members share the fun, excitement and challenge of their collecting areas through regional and national meetings, local chapters, publications, letters and phone calls.



Collectors interested in this souvenir sheet from Liberia might be building a specialty collection of Liberia, space topics or souvenir sheets. Specialty clubs and groups exist to bring together collectors in all three of these areas.

Many collectors are interested in collecting the postal history of their town, city or state. This means acquiring covers that were mailed from or to their locale.

Postmarks, route and other markings on these covers all help tell the postal history of the town, city or state. There are 18 APS-listed societies for collectors who do this: Arizona/New Mexico, Canal Zone, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Long Island (N.Y.), Minnesota, New Jersey, New York state, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, U.S. Possessions, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Each of these groups has annual membership dues, a publication to share information with its members and most have at least one annual meeting for interested collectors to come together. Is your state listed here? Do you have any old covers with interesting postmarks? Why not join your state postal history society?

With nine out of 10 SIPA readers collecting India stamps, there is much available for the Indian collector. I counted dozens of groups that are devoted to collecting some aspect of Indian stamps.

Are you interested in airmail stamps, with a dream of someday owning an inverted Jenny? You should join the American Air Mail Society, with more than 900 collectors who share the same dream! The AAMS monthly journal, the *Airpost Journal*, will help you learn about all aspects of U.S. airmails.

If booklets and booklet panes are your thing, there is the Booklet Collectors Club.

Do you hunt for the stamps that didn't come out "just right"—the errors, freaks and oddities of stamps and stamped paper? We have just the group for you: the Errors, Freaks and Oddities Collectors Club. You will receive the EFO Collector every other month, as well as other helpful aids and information to know what's happening in the EFO world. EFOs happen while a stamp is being printed or processed.

If you are a collector interested in how a stamp's

Collect Souvenir Pages  
of "first day" cancellations  
available for all stamps.  
designed for albums or framing  
You will receive future stamp  
issues for 50¢ each plus cost  
of affixed stamp by  
sending \$10 deposit  
with order form  
on reverse.

**\$100**  
Seven 13c  
and  
One 8c

**13c**  
Stamps

For Vending Machines Only

Always use:

- complete address
- return address
- ZIP Code

Studying the differences between booklets and individual booklet panes, as well as types and varieties, are some of the many activities of the Booklet Collectors Club.

The APS listing is truly the phrase "hobby of a thousand faces" coming to life, as it lists almost 200 different stamp clubs and societies from A-Z. The list starts with the Aerophilatelic Society and runs through the Zeppelin Collectors Club.

design came to be, there is the Essay-Proof Society, an organization devoted to collecting and learning about the artist's preliminary and final sketches and drawings for stamps.

In addition to the many other U.S. speciality groups too numerous to mention here, there is the grand-daddy of them all, the Bureau Issue's Association. The BIA, an organization devoted to the collecting of all U.S. stamps, publishes a wonderful monthly journal called *The United States Specialist*, with interesting articles on all aspects of U.S. collecting.



*Collectors interested in the stamps of Austria can join the Austria Philatelic Society of New York, and receive its Austria Bulletin three times a year.*

You say you are actually more interested in postmarks and cancellations, not the stamps themselves?

There are several great groups that will help you better enjoy and learn more about these many different markings. You can choose from the Bull's-eye Cancel Collectors Club, Machine Cancel Society, Mailer's Post-mark Permit Club, Maritime Postmark Society, Pictorial Cancellation Society, Post Mark Collectors Club, Precancel Stamp Society, U.S. Cancellation Club and the Universal Ship Cancellation Society.

If you can't obtain the postmark information you need from one or more of the members of these nine groups, it probably doesn't exist!

SIPA's readers, in smaller numbers than nine out of 10, also specialize in various countries of the world.

They have specialized societies, clubs and groups who come together to learn about and have fun collecting Australasia, Austria, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, British Caribbean, British North America, Canada, Channel Is-

lands, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Guataemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indo China, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latin America, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal/Tibet, Netherlands, Pitcairn Islands, Portugal, Rhodesia, Romania, Russia, Scandinavia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu and Vatican.

Anywhere from 8 percent to 25 percent of SIPA's readers collect one or more of these countries. Dues to most of these organizations average Rs.100/1000 per year, and you will reap great return with the fellow collectors you come in contact with, and the materials you receive from the club. If you collect any of these countries, I urge you to look into joining these organizations.

You say you don't collect Indian stamps, and you don't collect foreign countries? You collect stamps by topic or theme. So do thousands of others. These collectors have come together to form specialty groups that study Americana, biology, cats, chemistry, christmas, Christopher Columbus, fine arts, golf, graphics, masons, mathematics, music, petroleum, performing arts, ships, space, women and zeppelins, to name just a few.

I think it is safe to say that I have listed one or more groups to which every reader of this paper should probably belong, based on his collecting interests.

The funny thing is, due to space limitations on this page, I have left out dozens of other groups, each of which is equally as interesting and important to helping make our hobby as exciting as it is.

I hope you will take time to obtain information about these groups and, better yet, to become a member.

All this information is contained in the American Philatelic Society's listing of "Affiliates and Units."

To obtain a free copy of this eight-page affiliate listing, please send 75 cents in mint stamps (to defray the cost of photocopying and postage) to 1,000 Faces Refresher Course, Linn's Stamp News, Box 29, Sidney, OH 45365.

When you receive this listing, you will have the names and addresses of dozens and dozens of the 1,000 faces of the hobby. Take advantage by writing to the groups that interest you.

Joining one or more of these groups will show you that not only are we truly the hobby of a 1,000 faces, but we are the hobby of a 1,000 friends. Happy collecting!

## INDIANS STRIKE GOLD AT WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

VISPI S. DASTUR (BOMBAY), MANOHAR LAL (NEW DELHI) won GOLD MEDALS at the recently concluded GRANADA 92 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION held at Granda, Spain to mark the 500th Anniversary of the signing of the Agreement between Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella.

Dilip Shah and Dhananjay Desai won Large Vermeil medals, (Brig. D.S. Virk's book of Indian Postal History) won a Vermeil with felicitations of the Jury. A.M. Mollah and Miss Minara Mollah (Youth) Won Large Silver. J.M. Dhor won Silver, Miss Keethi Sangoram (Youth) won Silver Bronze and Suketu Jhaveri a Bronze Medal.

The International Jury included Mr. D.N. Jatia, President, F.I.P. and Mr. P. Gupta, Past President, P.C.I. Mr. Vispi S. Dastur, Vice President, Philatelic Congress of India and Hon. Editor, India's Stamp Journal was the National Commissioner for India who arranged and managed the Indian participation which resulted in Indians winning 10 medals at the International event.

# Suspension Bridge, N.Y., and J. Roebling

According to the archival record, Suspension Bridge, N.Y., was established as a United States post office on Dec. 30, 1854.

In the United States Post office Directory, published by Charles A. Rode of New York and, as stated on its title page, "corrected up to April 1, 1854," Suspension Bridge, N.Y., was listed as an exchange office for U.S. Canadian mail.

It exchanged international mail with an office also called Suspension Bridge, probably also just established, on the Canadian side.

As a name for a post office, either in the United States or Canada, Suspension Bridge was unusual, being named for a man-made object.

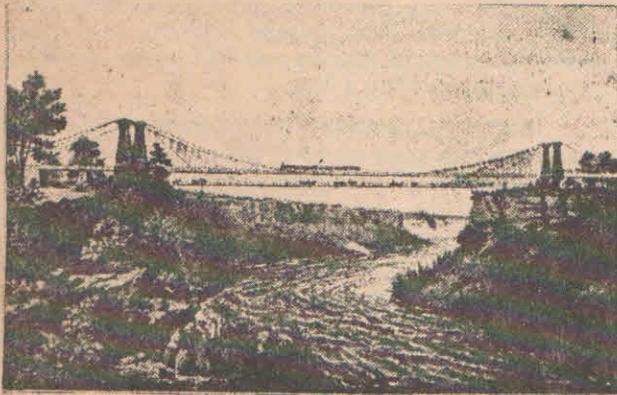


Figure 1. A Currier & Ives print of the Niagara Falls railroad suspension bridge of the 1850s, from which the Suspension Bridge, N.Y., post office got its name.

Most towns and post offices established in North America in the 19th century were named after people, European towns of similar names, or, in the west, after towns back east where emigrants had been raised.

Natural objects also were a common source for town and post office names, as witness Niagara Falls, N.Y., near Suspension Bridge.

Suspension Bridge was named after a new bridge then being built across the Niagara River and the gorge near the falls. Figure 1 shows a Currier & Ives print of the bridge, published in 1856. The picture is titled "Rail-road Suspension Bridge." It had the additional information, "Near Niagara Falls, Length of bridge 822 feet. Height above water 240 feet" and "John A. Roebling, Esq., Engineer."

John Augustus Roebling, pictured in Figure 2, actually wasn't the original designer of the suspension bridge. He had taken over the design from Charles Ellet, a competitor who, with a then much more impressive reputation, had quarreled with the owners having the bridge built.

The Niagara suspension bridge established Roebling's reputation, and he went on to build other great suspension bridges, including one at Cincinnati, finished in 1867 and still standing today, and the Brooklyn Bridge.

The purpose of the suspension bridge at Niagara Falls was to connect Canadian and United States railways. The bridge, actually a two-level affair with a vehicle and pedestrian roadway below the railroad level, was the first long suspension bridge built that could carry the weight of railroad trains.



Figure 2. John A. Roebling, designer of successful suspension bridges.

When it was completed in 1855, it became a main postal route to Canada and, as passengers on trains passing over the bridge had a good view of the falls, it was regarded as one of the wonders of the age.

Figure 3 shows a cover with a Suspension Bridge, N.Y., postmark, and Figure 4 shows tracings of a few other markings used at Suspension Bridge.

The Suspension Bridge, N.Y., post office operated under that name until it was converted in 1894 to Station A of the Niagara Falls post office. The following year the name was changed to the Suspension Bridge Station of Niagara Falls.

Among the markings in Figure 4 are a Suspension Bridge Transfer Office marking (tracing E) and a handstamp of the Canadian Toronto & Niagara Falls railroad post office (tracing D), both dated Sept. 17, 1940.

The cover from which these were traced is a large legal-size envelope bearing a 34¢ stamp of 1937 honoring Alaska Territory.

The cover has cachets of the U.S. Customs office at Niagara Falls and a shield shaped marking reading "Can. Nat. Exp. to R.E.A.," the date Sept. 17, 1940, and "Susp. Bridge, N.Y." The cover also bears the signature of an RPO clerk.

The cancel traced as A in Figure 4 is from 1862. The one traced as B, from the Figure 3 cover, is probably from 1863, based on the shade of that cover's 3¢ 1861 stamp, among other factors.

Marking C is struck in blue on a 34¢ National Bank Note Co. stamp of 1870. It is accompanied by a faint cork killer duplexed with the postmark, but the killer is not illustrated here.

We presume the Suspension Bridge post office continued to be an important exchange point for mails between the United States and Canada until mail was no longer carried by rail.

The Roebling suspension bridge, shown but not identified on the U.S.-Canadian Friendship stamp of 1948, was retired, as some put it, to be replaced in 1897 by a bridge designed to carry more tracks and heavier trains. That bridge is pictured on the 5¢ Pan American stamp of 1901.

Roebling and his great competitor Charles Ellet had careers that were curiously intertwined, both because of their competition and the way both passed from the scene.

Ellet actually had designed a long suspension bridge built across the Ohio River at Wheeling (then in Virginia) in



Figure 3. Suspension Bridge, N.Y., cover from the 1860s.

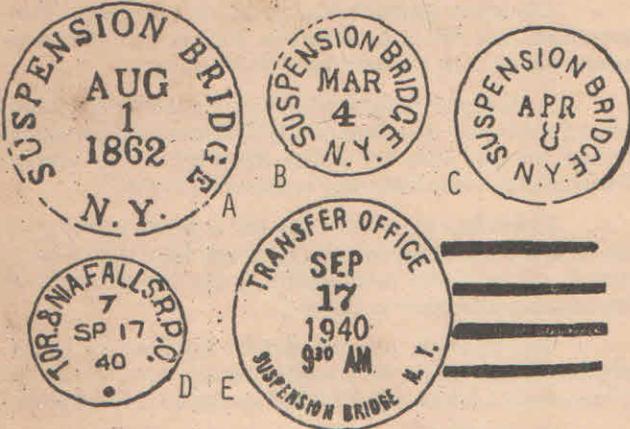


Figure 4. Tracings of Suspension Bridge markings. All are from Suspension Bridge, N.Y., except the Canadian Toronto and Niagara Falls railroad post office cancel (D).

## Ever So Easy

It is an old settler's saying that one has to understand the country where he lives or visits. I found out the truth of his saying during my recent visit to Italy. While collecting material for my new book, I had to spend three weeks in Isola d'Elba, the sunny Italian island where Napoleon spent several months in exile.

The first morning in the hotel I wanted an egg for breakfast. As the young waiter spoke only Italian, I tried first with the English "egg". No reaction. I told him in French oeuf, in German ei, in Latin ovum and finally in my native Hungarian tojas. No success, no understanding, only an inquisitive look. How can I get an egg for breakfast? Suddenly I had an idea. Being a cartoonist, I took a piece of paper and drew an egg.

The effect was surprising, "Si, si" the waiter said happily. Patate!" Which is the Italian for potato. I shook my head and quickly drew an egg cup under the egg.

"Si, si", the waiter said with a broad smile. "Cognac". With head and hands I waved "no" and made another drawing.

"Si, si" the waiter said enthusiastically. "pollo". Which is the Italian word for chicken. At this point I gave up. I told him to bring me Caoiazione, which is the Italian word for breakfast.

Five minutes later he broguht me coffee, butter, jam, rolls - and one soft - boiled egg - the regualr breakfast of that hotel.

the early 1850s. This bridge was destroyed in a windstorm just about the time that Roebling took over the design of the Niagara Falls bridge, so that could have been part of the quarrel Ellet had with the owners and the reason they switched to Roebling.

Both Ellet and Roebling were to die of leg injuries that would have been easily dealt with now.

Ellet went on to fame by designing a fleet of ram gunboats that defeated a Confederate fleet at the Battle of Memphis in the Civil War. Ellet was shot in the leg and subsequently died of an infection that resulted.

Roebling was born in Germany and graduated as an engineer from the Royal Polytechnical School in Berlin in 1826. He came to the United States and eventually became the leading manufacturer of iron and steel wire.

His manufacturing business led him into designing suspension bridges, where he recognized technical factors relative to the effect of wind on bridges that his competitors did not.

Roebling braced his bridges in such a way that they resisted wind damage, when Ellet's and other large bridges did not.

Roebling died from lock jaw (tetanus) in 1869 resulting after he had a foot crushed between a ferryboat and its slip while surveying for the Brooklyn Bridge. The Brooklyn Bridge was then taken over and completed in 1883 by Roebling's son, George Washington Roebling.

The Brooklyn Bridge, shown on the 1983 U.S. stamp, and the large suspension bridge at Cincinnati, are Roebling bridges still in service. All suspension bridges everywhere, however, really are Roebling's monuments.

## AND GOD SAID...

When the Creator was making the world, he told man he was giving him 20 years of normal sex life. Man was very unhappy about this and asked for more - but was refused.

The monkey was then offered 20 years. "I don't need 20," protested the monkey. "Ten will do."

"May I have the extra ten years?" pleaded man, and this time the Creator graciously agreed.

Then he offered the noble lion 20 years. The lion didn't want more than ten either, so man asked for the surplus and was granted ten more years.

The donkey was offered 20 years, but said ten was ample. Man again begged for the spare ten years and got them.

This perhaps explains why man has 20 years of normal sex life, ten years of monkeying around, ten years lion about it and ten years of making an ass of himself.

- A. Cecil Walker in *Hit Me Again!*

## Office Talk

When US industrialist Henry Ford was asked why he went to his executives' offices instead of having them come to his, he said: "I've found that I can leave the other fellow's office a lot quicker than I can get him to leave mine."

Give Generously Old / New Philatelic Journals / Books to SIPA Library.

# Discovering a world of food on stamps

When Christopher Columbus landed on San Salvador in the Bahamas Oct. 12, 1492, it was not only a meeting of two cultures, it was a meeting of two cuisines. The people of the Old World never ate the same again.

Many stamps from European countries picture the fruits, vegetables and other plants transported from the Americas to Europe by Columbus and those who came after him.

Columbus undertook his unprecedented 1492 voyage for many reasons, including a greed for gold and a search for the spices of the Far East. Of course, he never found the Far East or those spices, but he did bring many new tastes to Europe, as well as the rest of the Old World.

Columbus discovered chili, peppers just a day before he set sail for home, according to Raymond Sokolov in *Why We Eat What We Eat (How the Encounter Between the New World and the Old Changed the Way Everyone on the Planet Eats)* (Summit Books, 1991).



**Figure 2** Corn helped feed the animals of Europe, while potatoes provided subsistence for millions of people. These foods are pictured on stamps from Hungary and Sweden.

The New World peppers later spiced up the foods of many eastern European countries. Bulgaria pictured these peppers on a 16-stotinki stamp in a 1958 set featuring vegetables. This stamp is one of three shown in Figure 1.

It is not known if Columbus brought back any peppers with him, however, he did bring corn. He described it as "most tasty boiled, roasted or ground into flour."

Corn soon appeared as an ingredient in dishes in Spain and Italy. It never really caught on, though, as a human food in most of northern Europe. It was used instead as feed for livestock.

Corn and some of the livestock it helps nourish are pictured on a 1982 Hungarian stamp issued for Agrofila 82, an international agricultural stamp exhibition. The Hungarian stamp is one of two shown in Figure 2.

At least three countries, Denmark, Spain and San Marino, have released stamps specifically honoring Columbus and the food he helped introduce to the Old World. Corn is featured on one of the Danish stamps issued May 7 of this

year and on one of the Spanish stamps. It also is one of the fruits and vegetables depicted on the 1990 2,000-lira stamp from San Marino.

The San Marinense commemorative, depicted in Figure 3, also shows a food seldom seen on stamps, the sweet potato.

Columbus thought sweet potatoes resembled carrots and tasted like chestnuts. But he called them niames from the word for yams (inhames).

Columbus tasted chili, peppers, corn and sweet potatoes on his first visit to the Americas. Among the foods he encountered on later voyages was the pineapple.

A pineapple is pictured on the aforementioned stamp from San Marino, as well as on a 1988 United Nations stamp issued for use from the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. This stamp also is shown in Figure 3.

Columbus reportedly saw cacao beans growing on trees. But it's another Spanish explorer, Hernando Cortes, who is credited with revolutionizing the dessert world by introducing chocolate to Europe.

The Spanish, like the Aztecs from whom Cortes obtained cacao beans, were soon drinking chocolate. By the 17th century, chocolate houses had sprung up across Europe.

Figure 4 shows a 10pfennig East German stamp issued in 1955. The stamp reproduces an 18th century painting by Jean Etienne Liotard titled *The Chocolate Girl*.

Potatoes, another food Spanish conquistadors carried back with them, changed the course of history. Among other things, the potato helped provide the human fuel for the industrial revolution.

The potato started as a food for the European elite. In the early 1600s, potatoes sold in Europe for the equivalent of \$4 a pound in today's money, according to Zvi DorNer in *Columbus and the Age of Discovery* (William Morrow and Co., 1991).

The European peasants evidently didn't know a good thing when they tasted it.

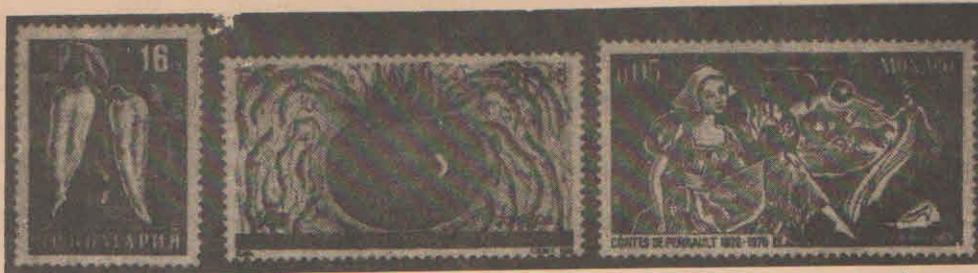


**Figure 3.** San Marino honors the culinary contributions of America on the stamp shown on the left. Two ingredients of Italian cuisine, the tomato and zucchini, are among the foods pictured on a stamp from Jersey. The U.N. stamp shows pineapple, a food Columbus tasted.

enlightened monarchs forced the peasants to grow potatoes or starve following a series of 18th century famines, epidemics and wars."

A 1973 75-ore stamp from Sweden depicts a farm couple planting potatoes. This stamp is part of a booklet pane

Jack Weatherford wrote of potatoes, in *Indian Givers—How The Indians of the Americas Transformed the World* (Crown Publishers, 1988): "... The peasants grudgingly accepted it only after their rulers forced them to plant it. Frederick the Great in Prussia, Catherine the Great in Russia, and similarly



*Figure 3. San marino honors the culinary contributions of America on the stamp shown on the left. Two ingredients of Italian cuisine, the tomato and zucchini, are among the foods pictured on a stamp from Jersey. The U.N. stamp shows pineapple, a food Columbus tasted.*

with se-tenant designs. The Swedish stamp is illustrated on the right in Figure 2.

Europeans were equally reluctant to accept the tomato, fearing it was poisonous or an aphrodisiac. But the tomato soon transformed many national cuisines, especially those of Italy and Spain.

A smiling tomato is featured on a 20-peseta+5pta semipostal in the aforementioned Spanish set. The stamp is pictured in the middle of Figure 1.

The Italians also welcomed the American squash they called zucchini. Three zucchini are shown between tomatoes and strawberries on a 1990 Jersey stamp celebrating the Festival of Tourism. The stamp is featured in the middle in Figure 3.

The pumpkin, a relative of zucchini, was used not

only to make pies but also the enchanted coach in Cinderella. A 1978 5-centime stamp from Monaco shows Cinderella's fairy godmother magically metamorphosing the pumpkin. The stamp is illustrated on the right in Figure 1.

The New World offered a cornucopia of other foods, including lima, pole, navy and kidney beans; cassava root; avocados; wild rice; vanilla; and sunflowers.

The latter proved particularly important to Russia and northern Europe, finally giving the area its own source of edible cooking oil. Figure 5 features a graceful sunflower portrayed on a 1981 3.50-dinar stamp from Yugoslavia.

This is just a sampling of European stamps that show food exported from the New World to the Old. A topical or thematic collection could be formed of such stamps, as well as meters, postal stationery, cancels and other stamp-related items, that illustrate how Columbus changed the way we eat.

## AMERICA - 500 YEARS

Five hundred years ago, a man by the name of Christopher Columbus set out to discover India but landed in America. Nevertheless, the event remains till date the most significant landmark in the discovery of the New World and in this 500th year since the discovery of America, the world has saluted the great explorer in several ways.

His birthplace, Genoa, in Italy is in the midst of a prolonged celebration. Philatelists the world over are paying their tribute to this unique man of history in their own unique way. While Genoa is to host "GENOVA '92" World Thematic Exhibition from 18th September to 27th September, 1992, Calcutta has paid its own tribute to one of the most remarkable explorers of all times in the form of "STAMPEX '92 - Exploring America Through Philately" in American Centre.

This is an exhibition of American Stamps and allied stationery covering most of the U.S. Postal issues from the collection of Mr. Suvra Chandra, noted Philatelist of Calcutta. Mr. Chandra has traced back over 500 years the History of USA beginning from early settlers like Lief Erikson and then the landing of Christopher Columbus and other great explorers like Ponce de Leon, Capt Francis Drake, etc.

The story of the civil settlement of Florida in 1565, the colonial life till the American Revolution, the "Boston Tea Party" and the "Declaration of Independence" on July 4, 1776, is told lucidly on stamps. The constitution and the Constitutional Heads i.e. the beginning with George Washington to Lyndon B. Johnson are depicted chronologically.

The story of the exploration and settlement of the West and the forming of new states as civilization spread throughout the con-

continent; and other important events in American history such as the Civil War and American participation in World War II is also depicted beautifully.

Several sections of the collection portray famous Americans, including Presidents, inventors, writers, musicians, scientists, movie and sports stars, American achievements in sports, art, culture, science and education. American scenic beauty at such places as Yellowstone, Mount Rainer, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon and the Everglades is also pictured.

This exhibition which has been displayed in several countries includes variety of Postal Stationery including revalued items, commemorating specific events. Some rare and old stamps like the Columbus Commemorative Issue (1893) incidentally which is also the first commemorative issue of USA is also in the exhibit.

The exhibition, a must for every student, historian and philatelic enthusiast has been drawing heavy crowds and has had to be extended upto the 25th of July due to an overwhelming public response.

The exhibition is organised by the United States Information Service and The Indo-American Society, Calcutta. It was inaugurated on 25th June 1992 by the U.S. Consul General in Calcutta, H.E. Ronald D. Lorton, himself a philatelist. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were respectively Mr. D.N. Jatia, President - F.I.P, and Mr. Purnendu Gupta, eminent Philatelist. The arrangements of framing and lighting has put the unmistakable mark of American efficiency and the credit goes entirely to Mr. James Warren, the Program Officer, USIS. All in all, a memorable experience.

Soumitra Kumar De

# Stamp News 5 & 6

## I NEW ISSUES

### 1. HENRY GIDNEY Re 1.00 Issued on 9.5.1992

Born on 9th of January, 1873. He was an eminent Parliamentarian, Ophthalmologist and strong votary of the rights of the minority Anglo-Indian community. He told his community "... you are first and last, sons of India..."

Quantity printed 1.0 million

### 2. TELECOMMUNICATION TRAINING CENTRE, JABALPUR

Re.1.00 Issued on 30.5.1992

The Telecommunication Training centre was originally established in Calcutta in 1920 and later shifted to Jabalpur during world war-II. In its 50 years of existence it has provided indispensable training to various cadres of technical staff of the Department of telecommunications. It provides induction and inservice training in the latest technologies and helps keeping the technical staff up-to-date.

Quantity printed 1.0 million

## II SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS AND SPECIAL COVERS

1. A special cancellation/cover was provided in New Delhi on 6.5.92 on the occasion of the years of the Asian Development Bank. Cancelled covers will be sold from Parliament Street post office for a period of 15 days at the rate of Rs.2.50 each.

2. A special cancellation was provided on 6.5.92 at BIR- 175041 (Himachal Pradesh) on the occasion of the International Para-gliding Competition - 1992.

## III WITHDRAWALS

1. The following stamps will be withdrawn from sale from all philatelic bureaux/counters with effect from 31.5.92 on completion of their sales for 6 months.

a) Chithira Tirunal Bala Verma; b) Children's Day; c) 18th Cavalry d) India Tourism Year - 1991; e) International Conference on Youth Tourism - 1991.

## STAMP NEWS -6

### 1. SPECIAL CANCELLATION/COVERS

A special cancellation/cover will be provided on 5-6-92 on 'Protection of the Environment' at Balconagar-495684 (M.P.). Blank covers will be sold for Rs.2/-each.

### II WITHDRAWALS

The following stamps will be withdrawn from sale from all philatelic bureaux/counters with effect from 30-6-92 on completion of their sales for 6 months.

(a) Mozart (b) SAARC year of shelter (c) Run for your heart (d) Asit Kumar Halder (e) Yogasana.

**POLLUTION Common  
CAUSE  
for Concern.**

## PCI CONVENTION :

The 8th bi-annual Convention of the Philatelic Congress of India was held at Hotel Harsha, Bangalore on 21st June 1992. Delegates from various parts of the country attended the Convention. Mr. D.N. Jatia RDP, President, Federation Internationale de Philatelie was the Chief Guest. He inaugurated the Bulletin of the PCI Chapter for Promotion of Youth Philately and vividly portrayed the high points of World Philately and the place of Indian Philately in it. Mr. V.K. Seth, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle released the special cover and cancellation brought out by the Karnataka Philatelic Society to commemorate the PCI Convention. This is the first time that such a special cancellation for PCI Convention has been brought out. Many aspects of importance to Indian Philately as well as Indian Philatelists were discussed at the Convention and meeting of the Governing council that followed. The following were elected to the Governing Council for the period 1992 - 1994.

### President

Col. L.G. Sheno, i

### President Elect

Mr. S.B. Kothari,

### Vice President

Brig. D.S. Virk,

Mr. Vispi S. Dastur,

Mr. M.G. Pittie,

Dr. D.J. Banerjee,

### Secretary Genral

Mr. Dilip Shah,

### Treasurer

Mrs. Damayanti M. Pittie,

### Secretary

Dr. P.S. Dixit

### Members

Mr. Suvra Chandra,

Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das,

Mr. Dhananjay Desai,

Mr. J.M. Dhor,

Mr. N.K. Jain,

Mr. A.N. Kagal,

Mr. Y. Kumar,

Mr. Ajay Kumar Mittal,

Mr. A.S. Mittal,

Mr. N. Sadasivan Nair,

Mr. V.R. Navlkar,

Mr. B.B. Paymaster,

Mr. S. Sahoo,

Mr. A.R. Singhee,

Mr. K.K. Verma,

Mr. W. Danforth Walker (USA)

A nominee of the Dep. of Posts.

## NEW MEMBERS OF F.I.P.

At the 61st Congress of the FIP held in connection with the World Philatelist Exhibition "Granada '92", it was unanimously agreed to admit South Africa, Estonia and Lithuania into the International Federation of Philatelists, the F.I.P.

At the same time Malta was readmitted and the world organization now has 69 members.

The Congress reelected the committee members standing for elections. The committee members of the F.I.P. for the next two years will be :

President: D.N. Jatia, India, Vice - President: F. Burton Sellers, USA, Patrick Pearson, Great Britain, Teddy Dahinden Switzerland.

Directors Joseph Wlf, Luxembourg Fernando Aranaz del Rio, Spain Oscar Enrique Buttine, Argentinian Koh Seow Chuan, Singapore, Knud Mohr, Denmark (treasurer)

The 62nd Congress of the F.I.P. is to be held in Bangkok in October 1993.

**Donate Stamps,  
used stationery to  
SIPA Juniors**

# Her Majesty Queen Sirikit:

"Guardian of Thailand's Natural Heritage"

(By Mr. G. MadanMohan Das, Commissioner, India. Bangkok - 93 (1.10 Oct 1993))

"It is essential we plan adequately to maintain a good balance between satisfying the needs of the ever-growing population, and the conservation of nature, to ensure the fertility of the soil and an ample supply of water. We must make a serious attempt to protect our remaining forests, and allow some ecological systems to recover. Our people must understand that the forest needs the animals to assist in its propagation and to keep it healthy and well-balanced. In turn, the forest provides both food and shelter to the animals. Healthy forests serve as watersheds, necessary as a source of water.

It must not be recorded in history that our generation was responsible for the destruction of all our forests and wild animals. They are all a part of our heritage. They belong here and have as much right to exist as we do."



These were the words of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand at a gala dinner in honour of H.R.H. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and Chariman of the World Wildlife Fund. Her Majesty hosted the dinner upon Prince Philip's visit to Thailand almost a decade ago. As patron of the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife (ACW) and the Wildlife Fund of Thailand (WFT), Queen Sirikit expressed her concern for the state of the environment.

Conservation and protection of the environment are major issues in today's world, calling for immediate action in order to ensure the future of mankind. Their Majesties the King and Queen have both laboured to relate to their people the urgency of the need to preserve the natural resources that exist so abundantly in Thailand.

As a result, several conservation projects have been initiated. PhuKhieo "Natural Zoo", Thailand's first natural open zoo, is the result of a long-time wish of Their Majesties the King and Queen. His Majesty has taken particular interest in the zoo by personally outlining the sanctuary's proposed development. The 975,000 rai of jungle, mountains and grassland in Chaiyaphum Province provide a natural habitat for a wide variety of birds, animals, trees and flowers, and are also a source streams and valuable watersheds that help to maintain the delicate ecological balance.

Accompanying His Majesty the King on his frequent trips into provincial areas. Her Majesty the queen was often given animal skins or trophies by local villagers. At her request, villagers have now ceased this practice and instead donated live animals. Most of these animals are released back into the wild, while a few of the more endangered species are kept for breeding purposes.

Several years ago Her Majesty initiated the Sea Turtle Conservation Project. Some species of sea turtles are now

nearly extinct, endangered by humans and polluted seas. Their Majesties generously donated the use of Mannai Island in Rayong Province as a nursery centre.

In July 1983, Their Majesties presided over the opening of the bird sanctuary at Khoa Khieo Open Zoo in Chonburi Province. In April 1985, Queen Sirikit inaugurated the first bird park in Thailand at Bangsai SUPPORT Centre, a village for Thai folk arts and crafts in Ayutthaya Province. The aviary, home to nearly 100 different species of rare and exotic Thai birds, has proved to be very popular among visitors. An aquarium has also been planned. It will house some 500 different kinds of aquatic animals which will be specially selected so that they can adapt themselves to the artificial water world.

For the past forty years, Their Majesties have worked to map out and initiate plans to alleviate hardships and promote the well-being of their countrymen. More than 1,300 royally initiated projects in numerous fields of conservation, agricultural and social development have been implemented, each tailored to comply with the needs and resources of each region and village.

Recognizing the fact that Thailand is an agricultural society in which the people still depend largely on nature to earn their living, Their Majesties have combined their efforts to conserve natural resources and the environment with an attempt to improve the livelihood of the people. Their Majesties and the members of the Royal Family spend the



better half of the year travelling to remote areas, in some-cases accessible only on foot. They talk with the people to learn about the problems they face, in order to come up with practical solutions.

Despite the fact that farming forms the backbone of the Thai society, it does not supply a regular income because of the weather which is often unreliable and uncooperative. Thus villagers are often forced to find other sources of income. Realizing this, His Majesty the King has given advice to people working on projects to improve the country's agriculture, while on occasions, he himself implements rural development projects.

Her Majesty the Queen complements the royal efforts with her own programme to promote supplementary occupations. In this way, she is able to support His Majesty's work. Her initiative has given birth to a number of institutions. One of the most well known is the Foundation for the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques (SUPPORT).

Since its establishment in 1976, the SUPPORT Foundation has set up training centres in all four regions of the country to promote the handicrafts indigenous to each region. In the central region, basketry and clay figure making are mastered. In the Northeast, mud-mee silk weaving, cotton weaving and pottery making are taught. Ceramics and cotton fabrics are concentrated on in the North. Reed mats, yan-lipao handbags, gold and silverware artwork, and woodcarving are the specialties in the South. Through her concern and farsightedness, traditional handicraft skills which were disappearing with the advent of modern technology have been preserved.

Qualified personnel teach the villagers the necessary techniques.

A shop has also been set up within the Chitralada Villa compound to market the products from the centres. The Queen herself provides the best public relations for the products, since she buys and uses the finished items herself. On her travels abroad, she always promoted the handicrafts to create a wider awareness and appreciation of their quality and beauty. She invited world-renowned designer Pierre Balmain to design a collection featuring mud-mee silk to promote its beauty and versatility.

Her Majesty's efforts in environmentalism and the conservation of Thailand's natural and cultural heritage have been recognized not only within the country, but also on an international level. In 1986, she was awarded the World Wildlife Fund Conservation Award in recognition of her contributions to the conservation of wildlife. She received a citation for her efforts in wildlife conservation on World Environment Day in June 1988 by the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP). On 20 July 1989, Kasetsart University also presented Her Majesty with an honorary doctorate degree in Botany in recognition of her outstanding role in the conservation of forests and other natural resources.

Their Majesties' concern for the well-being of the people and the protection of natural and cultural treasures is not just a personal mission. Following in the royal footsteps are the other members of the Royal Family. They are also contributing to long-term programmes which are being proposed and implemented to ensure that Thailand will continue to prosper and grow.

The combined efforts of Their Majesties have helped to reduce the problem of urban migration. They have increased the awareness of Thai citizens of the importance of the environment, and they have worked to encourage wise and careful use of the natural resources to achieve the highest benefit and the lowest impact on ecology. With full cooperation from all sectors, we can rest assured that the country's much-treasured natural cultural heritage would be preserved and passed down to future generations.

(From THAILAND Executive Diary 1992, published by the National Identity Office, Secretariat of the Prime Minister, Government House.)

BANGKOK 1993  
Bulletin - 2

### *Visit Bangkok 1993*

QUEEN SIRIKIT NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER  
1 - 10 OCTOBER 1993  
BANGKOK WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION 1993