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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

Undesirable Issues

shri. S.P.Chatterjea - SIGNET, OCT./DEC., 1987

Even on the very founding day of FIP, viz., 18th June 1926, the founding President W. Bigwood announced the five main goals to be pursued vigorously by them. Amongst these five was 'to combat with all its means the unnecessary and harmful stamp issues'. In fact, he stressed: "We regret the increasing and unpleasant tendency of the national postal ministries to issue postage stamps, with or without surcharge, that meet no postal necessity and which have the sole purpose of emptying the purses of philatelists. We note further, that these issues have such limited quantities that no sooner has one reached the postal counter than they are already sold out and they are offered at up to 30 times face value. An agreement between the major dealers and our organization would be absolutely necessary in order to shut out these stamps, which are improperly issued by some post offices, from our collections and catalogues. These administrations must understand that their countries would be greatly harmed by these unnecessary issues, if philatelists subsequently refuse to collect the stamps of these countries.

While it is desirable to combat those issues which are excessive and harmful to philately, one must first be clear just what this designation encompasses. Differences in opinion always arose, so that no agreement on definition was ever reached. At the 1931 Congress in Paris, the discussions were predominantly over unnecessary and speculative issues. The President, P.J. Maingay, presented the following proposals:

1. The F.I.P. should first clearly define the term "postage stamps" and clearly explain what is to be understood as unnecessary or speculative issues. Then, this determination needs to be published in the world press.

2. The F.I.P. members are to be urged to regularly report unnecessary or speculative issues to the F.I.P. Bureau, with the necessary explanations, so that this can be forwarded to the member federations for publication.

3. The F.I.P. members are to be requested to publish a column titled "A Collection of Undesirable Stamps" in their official society journals.

4. The F.I.P. should immediately get in contact with the most important catalogue and album publishers to inform them of

our views and to request them to cooperate with us on the same basis.

Following this proposal, Mr. Maingay presented his personal concept regarding the various postal issues, which he defined as follows:

Postage Stamp

"According to my opinion, a postage stamp is a security label sold at a fixed price, issued by a government for postal use and regularly offered for sale to the public at post offices. Otherwise, a vignette which a government issues for whatever occasion, and which is not offered at the post office, is an unworthy collectible".

Unnecessary Postage Stamp

"Here we are dealing very clearly with postage stamps which fulfil no postal requirement, and serve the sole purpose of filling the state coffers. It is even worse, when superfluous series with high values are issued".

Speculative Postage Stamp

"This type of postage stamps deserves our special attention. I consider as speculative postage stamps those which are issued in limited quantities, on the one hand to spur philatelic collecting desires and on the other hand to more rapidly drive up the commercial value".

Commemorative Issues

"I could have included this category under the unnecessary postage stamps, but I have chosen to deal with them separately, since here we must be more careful with our verdict. Since commemorative issues have become a common practice, I see no drawback in them, as long as they are limited to postally valid denominations for domestic and foreign letters and for printed matter".

Charity Stamps

"Here we are also really dealing with unnecessary issues. However, since these have also become a common practice, we can hardly raise an objection to them. It has been shown that, for example, the Swiss Pro-Juventute stamps which have been purchased by the public for postal use far surpass the philatelic demand. It seems to me that here as well we should limit our concern to the point only current values be issued and that the surcharges remain within limits, so that the ordinary user is not deterred. Should these issues be valued only for a limited period

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 Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannian Street, Madras 3. (7 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

of time, then the unsold stamps must be destroyed, and in no case may they be sold at a reduced price to a group of interested parties as happened in Belgium".

As interesting as the assembly found the proposal and the explanations, they were unable to reach a common decision. The only point accepted was the preparation of a list of unnecessary and speculative issues of all countries.

The thinking at this time was so much on how to stop such undesirable issues that even the Stamps Dealers' Congress at its first meeting in Livorno on 29-30 April 1931 hoped that the Stamp Dealers around the world will unite in an attempt to limit these issues to eliminate this danger to philately. In fact Mr. Th. Champion stopped to catalogue such stamps.

After long years of deliberations, Secretary Goldberg however concluded at the 1935 Congress in Brussels: "The F.I.P. could hardly raise protests against officially issued, postally valid postage stamps. It must limit itself to the superfluity of issues, to superfluous surcharges, and to sales under improper conditions. Collectors should only be given advice: they then have to decide whether they wish to put certain issues in their collections or not". How this advice was in fact followed can be seen in the letter from Mr. Champic, Yvert & Tellier to the F.I.P. President in 1938: "In spite of all my warnings, the philatelists want to obtain these undesirable issues, which led me to list them again in my catalogue". A difficult problem which the F.I.P. was never able to solve in a satisfactory manner during the pre-War years.

In the post-War Congress in Prague in Oct 1947 this question again came up and it was for the first time decided that the surcharge on postage stamps exceeding 50% of the franking value should be treated as undesirable ones. In the next year a separate Commission was established with the task of reviewing the entire position and compiling a list of all stamps which should be boycotted, in order to exclude them from international exhibitions. Such a list was prepared and distributed to the National Federations on 21.3.1950. The following guidelines were also suggested for unnecessary issues:

(a) Issues whose quantities are established arbitrarily, i.e., their issue quantity is too low in comparison with other issues; (b) Issues which are only available from the postal administration by special order; (c) Issues which are only on sale at counters during a very short period of time; (d) Issues which are never offered for sale at post office counters; (e) Issues which are given to an individual or to a consortium for sale.

During the period between 1950 and 1953 as many as four circular letters were sent by the President of the Commission to the national federations and also to the Postal Administrations stressing the need for organising Information Centres by the national federations and to feed back the information to the FIP Commission. It was also requested that those stamps not authorised at exhibition also not be allowed at stamp sales conducted by the societies and that they be excluded from new issue services and exchange booklets. Unfortunately there was no interest on the subject at the national federation level and nothing tangible came out. As such the Commission was forced to sharply curtail its activities due to this apathy of FIP member federations. Many took no notice of the lists issued by the commission and neither banned the exhibition of harmful issues nor forbid them from being offered in their exchange booklets or at sales organised by the federations.

The question was however lingered on and practically this was discussed in every Congress. The Commission Against Issues Harmful to Philately submitted definitions of Harmful, Objectional and Undesirable issues to the Paris Congress in 1964 in which the President of Commission Pierre Seguy mentioned: "We are convinced that if this is supported by the FIP, the battle against harmful issues, being carried out with determination and perseverance, will bring the desired results for philately and for all philatelists".

The following definitions were submitted to the Vienna Congress:

I. Harmful Issues

An issue is harmful, if it directly damages the interests of collectors. Such as:

1. Issues, or specific values thereof, which in whole or in large part are sold to selected individuals, who can thus dictate the price. 2. Issues, or specific values thereof, which are not offered freely for sale at post office counters in the land of origin, or are sold under special conditions of distribution. 3. Issues, or specific values thereof, with a surcharge of more than 50% of their face value. 4. Regularly issued series stamps or souvenir sheets, which have been provided with non-postal perforations or overprints for financial profit. 5. Special printing of regular issues which are not available at post office counters.

Exceptions: An exception can be made to Point 3 if the issue comes directly following a calamity or a sudden national catastrophe and the surcharge is to provide relief.

II. Objectionable Issues

An issue is objectionable, if it has costly characteristics. Such as:

1. Issues with perforated and imperforate stamps, series or souvenir sheets of the same face value. 2. Issues with coupled sales (1 souvenir sheets+X sets, or 1 rare stamp+X ordinary stamps). 3. Issues in various colours for the same stamp or the same souvenir sheet. 4. Reprints of an issue or a part thereof in the same or slightly differing form, for financial profit.

III. Undesirable Issues

Since postage stamps by their nature are receipts for postal service, all those issued are regarded as undesirable which obviously do not conform to this purpose, such as:

1. Excessively long commemorative series 2. Excessively high face value 3. Miniature sheets 4. Issues with a theme foreign to the country of issue 5. Issues which intentionally are produced in abnormally small quantities.

For the WIPA 65 exhibition, the Austrian federation had 1,000 copies printed of the list of issues harmful to philately, which the F.I.P. had banned from exhibitions. A portion of them was sent to the national federations, and the rest to the A.I.J.P. for distribution to its members.

At the request of Mr. Seguy, the organisers of the SIPEX exhibition in Washington agreed also to have a list printed of the harmful issues identified by the F.I.P., and to send it to all exhibitors. This example was also followed by the organizers of AMPHILEX 67. This last list was issued in three languages: French, German and English.

The Yvert, Michel and Zumstein catalogue publishers met their promises to identify the harmful issues in their catalogues. Also the Leuchtturm album publishers announced their willingness to publicize it.

Since, however, many stamp dealers were of the opinion that the activity of this commission impacted on their business, they brought Mr. Seguy to court for material damages. The complaint was rejected, and the court declared that collectors had the right to be warned, even if this opposed the conflicting interests of certain dealers.

In order to counter the increasing quantity of issues of imperforate stamps in conjunction with perforated stamps and souvenir sheets, the 1967 Amsterdam Congress issued the following resolution:

"Imperforate issues which are released together with normal perforated issues are to be considered as harmful, even when the imperforate stamps differ from the normal perforated stamps in colour or face value.

This was an elevation of Point 1 of "objectionable" issues. In order to give the postal administrations, who were to be immediately notified of the decision, time to respond, these "doubled issues" were not automatically placed on the list of non-admissible issues until 1st January 1968.

A period of success began with the year 1968, according to Mr. Seguy. Negotiations with catalogue publishers and journal

editors were so far advanced that the F.I.P. could look directly at those few catalogues and journals who failed to identify harmful issues, with a view to excluding them from exhibitions.

It was, however, not so easy for the Commission to update the lists of such issues harmful to philately from amongst the thousands of new issues and distribute the lists to the national federations. Already in 1969 objections started coming in from various national federations that it was impossible for the national federations to undertake anything on the subject unless the flow of information is maintained. In fact a stage came when the delegates to the 1970 London Congress demanded that the list be completely done away with. Thus the activity of this Commission declined noticeably and gradually the word of the Commission stopped.

Ultimately in the 1972 Brussels Congress, the Working Committee was entrusted to work out new directives for this burning problem. In 1973 the Working committee first established the following characteristics of issues which were not admissible at philatelic exhibitions:

1) Imperforate issues which are offered concurrently with perforated issues; 2) Special printings and reprints; 3) Private perforations and overprintings; 4) Issues which are turned over to a private commercial organization for sale; 5) Issues with too high a surcharge; 6) Issues with too low a printing quantity.

The question was discussed in the 1974 Stockholm Congress along with the draft regulation which provided for the maintenance of the list of harmful issues. The majority of delegates, however, preferred the development of clear principles concerning harmful issues rather than the lists since the compilation of the lists caused too much complications.

In subsequent Congresses the problem was further discussed and it was felt that the main question was to persuade the issuing countries to adopt a serious stamp issuing policy and to make them convinced that issues which run contrary to FIP principles will not be admitted to the exhibitions. After much deliberation the President Leon Putz addressed the following letter to all the Postal Administrations mentioning the four criteria of postage stamps which are to be rejected by exhibitions patronised by FIP and requesting them to adopt a well thought out policy in consonance with the above criteria.

Dear Director :

Allow me to occupy you with a problem which in its scope affects the interests of the postal administration to the same extent as it does the interests of stamp collectors. This is the question of the so-called 'undesirable issues'. The Congress of the F.I.P. (International Philatelic Federation) has passed the following resolution:

The following postage stamps are to be rejected by exhibitions under F.I.P. patronage:

1) Postage stamps which were not placed in circulation by means of open sale at the great majority postal counters and not sold at face value; 2) Postage stamps whose sale, to an overwhelming degree, is undertaken through commercial agents who are not officials of the issuing country; 3) Postage stamps which are offered to the public in the manner of concurrent issues in the form of stamps, souvenir sheets or pages, perforated or imperforate, in part with limited issue quantities, even if there are differences in colour; 4) Postage stamps which are issued with surcharges that surpass 50% of face value. An exception is made for amounts which do not exceed the normal postage for a domestic letter, under the condition that the surcharge does not exceed the face value.

In consideration of the synthesis of the lectures presented at the meeting of the Postal Council of the Universal Postal Union in 1971, we believe that the application of the above measures coincides with your own point of view. We remain convinced that the interests of philately can in no way run counter to the interests of a well thought out issuing policy on the part of the postal administrations.

In the hope that our points of view may prove to our mutual advantage to be identical, we request you advise us of your position in this regard."

Many Postal Administrations agreed with the FIP criteria and many did not reply. The FIP Bureau also intended to recommend to one of the next Congresses that all stamps from those postal administrations which rejected the criteria or failed to reply would be excluded from FIP international Exhibitions but this intention was somehow dropped.

The real crux is that although FIP deploras such issues it can only appeal to the Postal Administrations that they should not bring out such undesirable issues but cannot dictate to them. They can only disallow such undesirable and harmful issues in the exhibitions patronised by FIP. In this respect also it tried its best during the 60 long years to give a definite direction to the exhibitors but was not much successful due to the various problems inherited in the issue.

For the last few years FIP, however, devoted itself to evolving General and Special Regulations for the evaluation of competitive exhibits and has defined in article 3 of GREV about the principles of exhibit composition, the main emphasis of which is that an exhibit shall consist solely of appropriate philatelic materials. That is materials which for the purpose of transmitting mail or other postal communications, has been issued, intended for issue, used or treated as valid for postage by Government, local or private postal agencies or by other duly commissioned or empowered authorities. These FIP Regulations for the evaluation of exhibits at the FIP exhibitions have already been published in the earlier issues of Signet.

Taking all these into account, the exhibitors will do well to avoid inclusion of such items which do not fall under the appropriate philatelic items and give importance and preference generally to:

(1) Normal issues instead of additional imperforate parallel issues of stamps and Souvenir sheets or special printings and reprints brought out for financial profit; (2) Issues which have a direct relation to the Country of Origin on Political, historical, cultural, economic or other spheres instead of speculative issues which are brought out on profit motive to exploit the collectors; (3) Genuinely cancelled stamps instead of cancelled to order stamps; (4) Genuinely serviced materials through posts instead of more souvenir documents or items prepared to suit collectors like decorate First Day Covers, Maximum Cards etc; (5) Officially serviced items with correct postage as opposed to cancellations to order often with underpaid or overpaid postage or cancellations on blank without any postage (exception those of exempted categories); (6) Items with individual clear addresses instead of covers and cards received as a result of subscription; (7) Meter frankings with appropriate postage instead of to the "000" meter cancellations.

I am sure the exhibitors will take the full advantage from this comprehensive record about the Harmful, Objectionable, and Undesirable issues to guard themselves while building their collections for exhibitions.

References : 1. Origin and Evolution of the International Federation of Philately by Leon Putz. 2. FIP Information and Flash. 3. FIP Regulation for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions. 4. Guidelines to the above General & Special Regulations approved or discussed in the 56th FIP Congress at Copenhagen.

ORDER ON MANDATORY REGISTRATION REVISED

From Hindu dt. Jan 21. The Department of Posts, taking into account representations from various quarters, has reviewed its order relating to compulsory registration of postal articles containing cheques, dividend warrants, share certificates, debenture certificates and refund orders. It has now been decided that registration of such postal articles (as also those containing postage or other stamps, hundi, bank note and bill of exchange) will no longer be mandatory.

However, the department feels that it is advisable to register such articles in order to ensure secure transmission by post and assured delivery, according to a Press information Bureau press release.

Thematics VENTURING SOUTH

The Antarctic is a very popular collecting area partly because there is a fascination in exploration and existence in a land totally inimical to man, and partly because its boundaries can be set precisely if one chooses to concentrate on only certain specific territories. A thematic collection can trace the opening up of the Southern Continent historically by the many ships and men involved, or it can illustrate the slow shift of emphasis from straightforward exploration to the scientific. Expeditions can be collected, either generally or limited to those of a particular nationality, and each one can be slotted into a larger canvas, providing the wording of the main heading has been carefully chosen to cover the material displayed. It would be inappropriate to include Antarctic flora and fauna in a thematic reconstruction of Shackleton's Endurance expedition, which was of dire necessity concerned only with survival, but they could indeed be part of the current Joint Services expedition to Brabant Island which is investigating life in that area.

Whether a collection is intended for display or competition, a linking uniformity is achieved by using the same paper and method of writing up in ink for the whole collection, either by handwriting, or stencil, or typewriter. Look at other exhibits at national levels and above. They will give guidance and teach what not to do, as well as suggest new ways of presentation that might appeal. Do not overcrowd a page, and reduce writing to a minimum. There are many specialist societies designed for collectors of specific subjects like music, railways, ships. Do not let the word 'specialist' put you off, but joint Membership brings new friends, and a wealth of help, information and material otherwise, particularly for polar enthusiasts, most difficult to find.

The Yorkshire-born Australian Douglas Mawson was the last of the giants of Antarctic exploration who had to rely on human endurance rather than modern technology. A quiet, big-framed man of great physical stamina, he is consistently over-shadowed by the exploits of his contemporaries, Scott and Shackleton (Ross dep. 1957 4d). He trained as a geologist, and at Sydney University made a life-long friend of Professor Edgworth David who interested him in chemical geology. Later he was to be the first professor of geology and mineralogy at Adelaide for 32 years.

Shackleton persuaded Mawson to join 1907/9 British Antarctic Expedition as physicist under Edgworth David (Australia 1968 5c) who was head of scientific staff. the expedition set out in the 200-ton wooden quarters ex-sealer Nimrod (A.A.T. 1981 15c) and winter quarters were established at Cape Royd in February 1908 (Ross Dep. 1972 5c). Mawson was one of the Professor's party of six who climbed Mount Erebus to make a geological survey of the active volcano, which is shown by Ross Dependency (1957 3d) with HMS Erebus after which it was named. The 'B.A.E. was privately sponsored, and its two objectives were to reach the South Pole, and the South Magnetic Pole. The former is geographically static, but the latter moves position according to the fluctuations of earth's magnetic field.

While Shackleton's polar party made an unsuccessful attempt on the South Pole, getting to within 97 miles of their objective in January 1909, a 3-man team consisting of Edgworth David, Mawson and the surgeon Dr. A.F. McKay set off at first in the car that Shackleton wanted to test experimentally in the Antarctic. This was very soon abandoned as useless, and the party continued by man-hauling their sleds some 200 miles along the unknown Victoria Land coast, and climbing up 7000ft to the polar plateau. Suffering badly in the rarified air, and combatting snow blindness, frostbite, and searing winds that cracked the skin, they made a final effort on 16 January 1909

leaving their loads behind on the ice they made a dash for their target. The photograph they then took of themselves and the Union Jack was later reproduced as a stamp (A.A.T. 1959 5d). The 75th anniversary in 1984 of this event was marked by two stamps illustrating a prismatic compass and Lloyd-Creak dip-circle (AAT 30c) and an aneroid barometer and theodolite (85c), all instruments used which proved that they had indeed reached the correct position. The return was a desperate race against the elements and a shortage of food as they tried by a series of forced marches to reach the rendezvous where Nimrod had arranged to pick them up. The exhausted men were too late. Nimrod had already gone, but after a few days she unexpectedly returned, having hovered off the ice for the men who had completed one of the most sensational treks ever undertaken. They had man-hauled sledges over 1,260 miles of unexplored territory for 122 days on short rations, a feat which earned a knighthood for the Professor.

In 1910 Mawson was invited to join Scott's (GB 1972 9p) last expedition, but he was eager to lead his own scientific expedition to explore the unknown area between Adelie Land and Victoria Land. This was later named George V Land and became part of the Australian sector. The Government - sponsored Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911 / 14 (AAE) sailed on the sturdy 380 - ton Aurora (A.A.T. 1980 1c), an auxiliary wooden barquentine built as a sealer in 1876. They paused en route to leave a party of scientists and radio operators on Macquarie Island to set up a permanent base, before continuing to the continental coast where they landed 6 January 1912 at Commonwealth Bay to establish the main base. Mawson called it 'the home of the blizzard' because it was impossible to stand in the howling gales without spiked boots. A party of seven set up a second base some 1500 miles to the west. Both areas were claimed for the King, and the two bases kept in radio contact.

In November Mawson, Lt B E Ninnis of the Royal Fusiliers, and the Swiss lawyer Dr Xavier Mertz started out with 3 sledges and 17 dogs, working their way over the deep crevasses of the huge Ninnis and Mertz glaciers, travelling eastwards. The return journey was horrific. Ninnis plunged into a crevasse and perished with his dogs, the tent and most of the food and equipment for survival, leaving his companions bereft of even shelter, 300 miles from base. Ignoring all safety precautions for the sake of speed, the two men force-marched hoping to avoid death by freezing or starvation. Mertz died of exhaustion, and Mawson completed the last hundred miles of the nightmare alone, with no dogs and almost no food, surviving through a stubborn refusal to give in. At the extremity of hunger he stumbled across a food cache left by one of his search parties, and staggered into the base on 8 February 1913. It was the finest solo journey ever undertaken in the Antarctic without even the most elementary equipment. Five of his men had voluntarily stayed behind when Aurora left in case he returned,



and the ship arranged to come for them when ice conditions allowed the following season. Radio contact was made with the base on Macquarie Island, and for the first time and Antarctic expedition was in touch with the outside world. Despite the loss of Ninnis and Mertz this A.A.E. was a most valuable enterprise. Its scientific and geographical discoveries were temporarily neglected because of the war, but Mawson's knighthood recognized his achievements. The 50th anniversary of the A.A.E. was marked in 1961 by a portrait of the explorer (AAT 5d).

Sir Douglas advocated steadily for an Australian sector in the Antarctic, and his third venture south was as leader of BANZARE 1929/31. The expedition ship was Scott's famous Discovery (FID 1954 6d) which cruised during the two summer seasons as near to the land as the ice permitted, and roughly charted some 2,500 miles of mainly unknown coast, with the help of sledge journeys and exploratory flights from the ship. On 14 January 1930 Mawson met the Norwegian explorer Riiser-Larsen on ss Norvegia (AAT 1981 50c), and the two men fixed the boundary between the Norwegian and British sectors along longitude 45° E. The vast wedge-shaped territory lying between 45° & 160°E (excluding French Adelie Land) was taken over by Australia in 1933. Sir Douglas died in Adelaide in 1958, the recipient of many British and foreign awards for work in Antarctic and geological fields. Retiring by nature, this very great explorer was accorded a state funeral. His birth centenary was commemorated in 1982 by stamps showing his portrait against the Australian Antarctic that he had so actively advocated, and Mawson Base perpetuates his name in that part of the continent that he had done so much to explore.

For expedition mail on Aurora 1911/14 a special circular rubber handstamp was used either as a cancellation or cachet. Similarly during the second season of BANZARE 1929/31 a circular cachet with a penguin cancelled mail, and although unofficial this was accepted by the Post Office. During 1985 the Project Blizzard Expedition visited Mawson's Hut, Commonwealth Bay, to assess what restoration was needed, and Australia used a special commemorative hand stamp on 11 January 1985 marked 'Commonwealth Bay' although there has never been a Commonwealth Bay Station. All these items are well worth including in a Mawson story.

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PHILORAMA

PHILAKOREA '94 Awards :

Our felicitations to the following Indian Philatelists for the awards won by them at the World Philatelic Exhibition PHILAKOREA '94 held in Seoul, South Korea from 16th to 25th August 1994 :-

Grand Prix International :- Dilip Shah; LARGE GOLD : with special Prize : A.R. Singhee : **GOLD** ; Pradip Jain and Anil Suri; **LARGE VERMEIL** : Dhananjay S. Desai and Anil Mehta ; **VERMEIL** : Abdus Salam , Santosh Kr. Rungta and A.M. Molloah; **LARGE SILVER** : Miss. Ekta Sharma, A.G. Shirolkar and Shekar Chakrabarti; **SILVER** :Kishor Chandak **SILVER BRONZE**: Padma Krishna Rao and Rupali Jain; **BRONZE** : P.S. Vara Prasad, Keerthi Sangoram, A.M. Mollah and M.R. Prabhakara

STAMPEX - 20 : at Jalandhar :

The Jalandhar Philatelic club will be organising its 20th stamp exhibition, styled STAMPEX - 20, on 8th and 9th October 1994 in K.L. Saigal memorial complex, Jalandhar city. The exhibits will be non-competitive. However, the certificates of participation will be issued. The exhibition is being co-sponsored by Rotary Club, Jalandhar Central & the Department of Posts. Souvenir cover will be issued on inaugural day of the Exhibition which is dedicated to the immortal singer, K.L. Saigal. Special Cancellation depicting Gramophone & Rotary Monogram will be provided for the special cover. The rate per souvenir cover is Rs.3.00 postage extra. The orders may be sent in advance to the Secretary with remittance. The Club will conduct a Workshop on Philately cum Drawing/Painting competition for school students on Sunday, the 9th October, 1994 at 11 A.M. This day i.e. 9th October also marks the commencement of Postal Week, being celebrated each year by Indian Department of Posts.

Further details may be had from Nawal K. Khera, Hony. Secretary, Jalandhar Philatelic Club, C/o. M/s. Kishore Distributors, Hind Samachar Street, Jalandhar - 144 001.

KARNAPEX :

The Karnataka Postal Circle will be holding the Circle/state level philatelic exhibition at Bangalore from 11th to 14th November. The Organising Committee is sparing no efforts to ensure that the exhibition is a grand affair. The exhibition will be held in the Banquet hall of Vidhana Soudha, where some of the earlier Karnapex exhibitions, Inpex exhibitions and the Asian International exhibition ASIANA '77 were held. Souvenir cards and special cancellations will be issued and there will be a good representation of the Philatelic Trade in the trade stalls. The Organising Committee is also planning to have a children's Corner for young collectors from schools and colleges.

SINGPEX '94 Awards.

As reported in these columns earlier, the 7th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition, styled as SINGPEX'94, was held in Singapore from 31st August to 3rd Sept.. Our felicitations to the following awardees from India:-

Silver : Mr. A. Ravooof (Refugee Relief - India); Mr. Kishore Chandak (Early Indian Cancellations- 1793 - 1900); Mr. Sahadeva Sahoo (Early Fiscal History of Bamra).

Bronze : Mr. A.V. Radha Krishnan (Classification of Birds); Mr.N. Sadashivan Nair(Santhana Dharma - Hinduism); Mr. S. Prasanth(The Powerful animals) Miss S. Prema (The elephant); Mr. M.R. Prabhakara (literature). **Diploma**; Miss. Keerthi Sangoram (Vagabond of space). **Certificate of Participation**: Mr. Shaji Wilson (Story of Aviation); Daniel Monthero (Water birds); Mrs. Sumitra Sahoo (Litrature- Stamps & Stamps). Mr. Suvra Chandra (FIP Exhibitions 1984 - 93).

It is understood that, following a resolution at the 63rd FIP Congress in Seoul on 26th August 1994, judging at SINGPEX'94 was according to the full FIP marking (that is, without any moderation)

INDIA POST

New Issues :

i) 11 July. 75p and 100p definitive stamps highlighting the virtues of small family.

ii) 12 August. 650 p special stamp on 4th Battalion (WLI) of the Madras Regiment. The Fourth Battalion (Wallajabad Light Infantry) was raised at Madras as 33 Madras Battalion on 12th August 1794. the designation of the Battalion has undergone a number of changes during the 200 years of its existence. It used to be called 1/12th Regiment Madras native Infantry in 1797, and later 4/3 Madras Regiment from 1922 onwards until it assumed its present designation in 1947.

Prior to independence, the Battalion participated in numerous wars. In recognition of their valour, the Battalion was awarded the Motto 'Now or Never'. the present Motto of the Madras Regiment is 'Swadharme Nidhanam Shreyaha' which means 'it is glory to die doing one's duty'. This was given to the regiment by Shri C. Rajagopalachari.

For its achievements in both the world wars, the Battalion won several honours. After independence, it played a crucial role in controlling the post partition riot at Delhi and participated in a number of operations in India and also abroad in Congo. During the liberation of Jammu & Kashmir the Battalion captured Pir Kalewa and Camel's hump near Mendhar. In 1961 it participated in 'Operation Vijay' for the liberation of Diu and later in the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971.

The Battalion has the distinction of being awarded 15 battle honours and 99 Gallantry Awards.

POSTAL STATIONERY :-

i) 16 August. Two Inland Letter cards with Advertisements by the Ministry of Environment & Forests in Hindi. The first one has the inscription "Swasthya Paryavaran Sukhad Jeevan" (clean environment, happy life) and "Haryali Hi Jeevan Hai" (greenery is life).

SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS:

i) 4 July. A special cancellation on the occasion of Lufthansa First flight LF/755-A-340, Madras Frankfurt at Anna Road H.P.O. was provided.

THE AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN UK AND AUSTRALIA, 1931-1938

PART - I

In March 1919 the then Prime Minister of Australia (W M Hughes) announced a prize of £10,000 for the first Australian airman to complete a flight from Great Britain to Australia. Various conditions were imposed and the flight was to be completed within 30 days, and not later than 31 December 1920. The race was to be started at Hounslow Aerodrome or, if a seaplane were used, at Calshot, and terminate in the region of Port Darwin. Of the several contestants, the winners were Captain Ross Smith and Lieutenant Keith Smith together with their mechanics Sergeants Shiers and Bennett. They left Hounslow on Wednesday 12 November 1919 and reached Fanny Bay, Darwin, on Wednesday 10 December, taking 137 hours for the 11,340 mile journey. The plane they used was a twin-engined Vickers Vimy, G-EAOU. After reaching Darwin they flew to Adelaide by way of Charleville, Sydney and Melbourne, making the entire journey 14,350 miles. The two Smith brothers were knighted for their achievement. A small number of covers was carried unofficially, to which were affixed a special 'stamp' and a hand cancellation.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of this historic flight Great Britain issued a 1s 9d commemorative postage stamp on 2 April 1969. A special re-enactment flight by the R.A.F., carrying philatelic mail left Hounslow on Wednesday 12 November 1969, reaching Darwin on the following Sunday afternoon, 16 November. Comparative details of the two flights are:

	1919	1969
Type of plane	VIMY G-EAOU	COMET XR 399
Pilot	Capt. Ross Smith	Sqdn. Ldr. J L Buist
Flying time	136 hrs. 55 mins.	24 hrs. 20 mins
Elapsed time	27 days, 20 hrs. 5 mins.	3 days, 19 hrs. 32 mins.

An illustration appears at Fig. 1 of the Ross Smith 'stamp' of which less than 400 were affixed to the mail carried on the 1919 flight.

The Experimental Flights, 1931

On 31 March 1924 British Marine Air Navigation, Daimler Airways, Handley page Transport and Instone Airlines amalgamated to form Imperial Airways. They began flying from London to Delhi in 1929 and two years later decided to extend this route for two occasions only, and fly through to Australia. The flights selected left London on 4 and 25 April 1931 and were known as the First and Second Experimental Flights. Postage to Australia was fixed at 1s 4d per half ounce and 1s 11d in the reverse direction. (This latter amount was made up of 2d per ounce postage within Australia and 1s 9d per half ounce air mail fee). For the First Experimental Flight Imperial Airways issued a special envelope printed in blue, showing an outline map of Australia and eight lines of lettering which read: 1st / ENGLAND / AUSTRALIA / OFFICIAL / AIR MAIL / 1931 / by / IMPERIAL AIRWAYS. Enclosed in the envelope was a letter from the Managing Director of Imperial Airways pointing out the time saved in sending letters by air. For the return flight a special envelope was issued by Qantas, and a cachet struck in violet was applied by the Australian Post Office to all items of mail. On the second Experimental flight, Imperial Airways did not issue a special envelope, and the Australian one differed from the earlier one only in the date of the flight and the replacement of 'First official flight' by 'Second official flight'. In neither case were cachets applied.

Timetable of the Experimental Flights, 1931

	First Flight	Second Flight
Croydon Aerodrome	4 April	25 April
Darwin	25 April	11 May
Melbourne	29 April	14 May
Melbourne	23 April	16 May
Darwin	27 April	19 May

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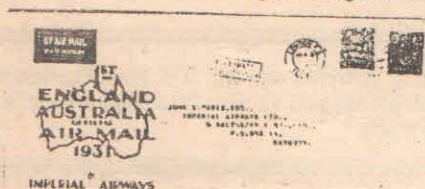
Croydon Aerodrome 14 May 4 June

On the first flight the plane crashed at Keopang (now Kupang) on the outward journey, delaying the arrival of mail by six days. The only known autographed covers are some by Kingsford Smith and Hudson Fysh on the flights from Australia.

Whilst cachets (in violet) were only applied to mail leaving Melbourne on 23 April, some (in magenta) were applied in Burma on the first flights only. An example of this is shown in Fig. 3. Mail to or from Singapore received a five-line machine slogan postmark in black, reading IMPERIAL AIRWAYS/LTD/LONDON-AUSTRALIA/AIR MAIL/FIRST FLIGHT. A similar slogan appeared on mail carried on the second flight, but in four lines and with the words FIRST FLIGHT deleted.

The first All-Australian flight, 1931

After Australian National Airways decided to withdraw from interstate services in June 1931, they organised the first All-Australian air mail to England. The plane, SOUTHERN SUN, with Capt. G U Allan in command left Hobart on 19 November and calling at Melbourne and Sydney on the next day, then flew to Alor star. On 26 November Allan crashed and the plane was wrecked. Fortunately, all the mails were saved and transferred to a relief plane SOUTHERN STAR (piloted by Kingsford Smith) which arrived at Croydon on 16 December. Misfortune befell the plane and the return flight, intended to carry Christmas mail from England to Australia was unable to leave until 7 January 1932. Owing to this delay mail for the return flight was accepted in London up till 6 January. It arrived in Melbourne on 22 January, and in Hobart the next day. Special envelopes were issued for each flight: a buff envelope of 91 mm x 129 mm was provided for the flight to England whilst a drab



blue-grey envelope 146 mm x 119 mm was used for the return. A letter dated 30 November 1931 from the Publicity Dept. of Shell-Mex Ltd., said that the special envelopes for the return flight would be available about 7 December at Messrs. W H Smith & Sons bookshops, and retail at about 6d per dozen. Included with the special envelope for the return flight was a printed note with the message "This letter was carried by air from England to Australia in the SOUTHERN STAR the first All-Australian Mail Aeroplane to leave England. Piloted by Air Commodore C E Kingsford Smith and Mr. G U Allan. Left London 22nd December 1931". A cachet in violet was applied



to the London-bound mail, Fig. 4 shows a return cover autographed by G U Allan. It is postmarked LONDON 21 DE 31 and back-stamped SYDNEY 21 JAN 1932.

Postage rates were 1s 3d pef half ounce from Australia and 1s 4d per half ounce from England.