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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

PUT YOUR EGGS IN THREE BASKETS

You need not know much about the famous sixteenth century Spanish writer Cervantes to value his warning that "a wise man does not venture all his eggs in one basket". After more than 350 years, these words continue to provide good advice for successful businessmen seeking protection from investment risk. The adage also applies to the wonderful world of stamp collecting, although the stakes here are not only financial but psychological as well.

Many philatelists, particularly young people, begin with a general collection. They start with world album, affix the flags and coats of arms of the many countries, and mount their postal adhesives. Later comes the realization that seven continents and seven seas are too much to cover and retrenchment sets in. After a flirtation with global geography, more than a few Indian Collectors decide to concentrate upon or mint INDIA STAMPS. This narrow focus, however, eventually may present a new problem. A time may come when you have acquired most of the inexpensive or moderately priced stamps, and you become caught between prohibitive price to top quality early issues and buying the annual torrent of new stamps. Our country, for example, issued more than 40 new stamps in 1991 (compared to a handful a few years back.) Here are three specific ideas for deriving greater collecting pleasure at lower cost.

BE SELECTIVE WITHIN YOUR BASIC INTEREST.

If you collect India, forget the very expensive mid-nineteenth century treasures you covet but cannot afford and refuse to keep up with the current India's yearly deluge of new stamps. Instead, consider items you previously may have ignored such as Official stamps.

Our country issued first official stamps after Inde-

pendence in August 1948, GANDHI OVERPRINTED SERVICE'. Afterwards they regularly issued 1950-51 ASHOKAN PILLAR anna series with wmk Star with a set of 15. Again on 1st April, 1957 Ashoka Pillar with watermark Star (litho) Naya Paise series, a set of seven and yet another with (TYPO) Naya Paise Series with a set of 10. Again in 1958-67 Ashoka Pillar watermark Ashokan (Typo) Naya Paise series with a set of 19. On 5-11-67-74 Ashoka Pillar (Typoprint) Wmk. Government of India (No Gum. Perf. 15x14) ; in 1971 Refugee Relief overprinted Nasik for all India in 5p; 5p Machine printed for Maharashtra and new design for all India 5p. In 1967-74 Ashoka Pillar wmk. Sideways Gummed Paper perf. 15x14 in a set of 8 values. In 1976-81 Decimal Currency wmk. Large Star & Govt. of India wmk. No Gum Perf. 15x14 in set of 14 values; in 1976-80 Decimal Currency Gummed Paper Ashokan to left in set of 4; wmk. to right with one stamp of Re; 2wmk. upright with three stamps 200,500 & 1000, then Ashokan Wmk. inverted. on 10th December, 1981. Wmk. large star and Govt. of India in Sheet. No Gum Imperf. with stimulated Perf. in a set of 11 stamps and on 22nd November 1982 Design same as 1976-80 issue. Wmk large star but with Perf. 12 x 13 with set of 12 on 16th April 1984-88 Design same as 1982 but with Ashokan wmk. Perf. 12 x13 with a set of 14 stamps; then Ashokan upright wmk 12 stamps and Ashokan wmk to right with a set of 6 stamps. Try to collect USED stamps, used stamps used by official Departments and see how you have scored over others.

SELECT A SECOND COUNTRY.

Newly formed nations with their short postal history or small countries such as Switzerland make completing collections of their stamps a greater possibility than most of the older, larger countries that have issued stamps since the mid-nineteenth century. Nicaragua, however, is my choice for a second country. Good designs, interesting subjects,

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.)

first issues in 1862. From time to time, Nicaragua has honoured U.S. Citizens with stamps commemorating their interests or achievements. In 1946, Nicaragua recognised Franklin D. Roosevelt as Philatelist, Cardinal Spellman's visit was marked with a set of commemoratives. Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy have appeared on Nicaraguan stamps, as has Charles A. Hindbergh. The variety of Nicaraguan stamps makes collecting them a challenging and relatively inexpensive philatelic pleasure.

TRY A TOPICAL THRUST

A third diversification can come through a topical focus. One collector might select a popular subject such as maps while another could select open-cockpit biplanes. Some stamp enthusiasts pick birds, but the field has grown so large it may be wise to specialise within the vast avian world. Why not concentrate upon a specific species? I, for one would opt out for eagles on the stamps of foreign countries. Philatelic eagles may be heraldic or natural. Late nineteenth century Russian stamps featured an early example of the former type. The eagle on the stamp had two heads. Austria and Poland printed sets of stylized eagle stamps in the 1920s. Germany issued a 1978 stamp with a heraldic eagle in its design.

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WRITE TO:

SUBHASH CHANDRA,
K. 57/47, NAWAPURA,
VARANASI-221 001.

After a break of two years, the Jal Cooper Philatelic Society, Varanasi, under the stewardship of Dr. B.P. Singh organized a Thematic Stamp Exhibition Jalpex 94 from 9th to 12th April at Varanasi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Ajaz Ahmad, Senior Post Master, Varanasi. Nonetheless Shri Raj Kumar Maharaj, Senior superintendent Post Offices, in spite of his busy schedule visited the exhibition and shown a rare zeal for philately and gone through every exhibit. He has extended all help to make the exhibition a thumping success. It is significant that majority of exhibits figuring in Jalpex 94 were already winner of a medal either in Uphilex or Inpex 93. The exhibits covering more than 800 album pages on wide range of subjects were of Sarvashri. Jahoor Ansari Amit Gupta, Sumit Bhargawa, Tushar Agrawal Balkan Ji Bari School, Charles William Kelly, Arif Jamal, Asif Iqbal, Allam Alhindi, Obedullah Tahir, K. K. Rastogi, Dr. Satyendra and Dr. Bhupendra Pal Singh. The exhibits were held in high esteem and praised by philatelists and common man alike.

Notable exhibits are 'Ship' by Amit Gupta, 'Greek Mythology' by Zahoor Ansari, 'Aerophilately' by Arif Jamal, 'Bangladesh' by Asif Iqbal and 'Philately' Per Mere Lekh by Allam Alhindi.

The society also organized a workshop on "Philatelic Terms" on 10th April and the speaker Dr. Bhupendra Pal Singh gave a vivid account of postal history of about 200 years encased in philatelic terms.

This year society asked for a special cancellation for the Jalpex 94 and the Post Master General, Uttar Pradesh, kindly acceded to the request and granted the same depicting Malviya Bridge. A first day cover showing Raja Chet Singh was issued by the society to mark the occasion. Possibly, the star attraction of the Jalpex-94 was two special mails by Pigeon and Boat respectively.

The idea of special mails and their cover designs was conceived, designs were artistically expressed by a young and talented artist Allam Alhindi. The Pigeons, carrying message were released by Shri Ajaz Ahmad, Senior Post Master and successfully covered the stipulated distance and reached Nichi Bagh Post Office. Likewise, a special mail emanating from the Main Post Office was carried on the river Ganga by the boat to reach B. H. U. Post Office. The covers and the missives of both the special mails were duly signed by the Post Masters of the involved post offices. Since then, the special mail covers and FDC are on sale, and can be had from the office of the society.

On the conclusion of the Jalpex 94, the President of the society thanked Dr. Satyendra, convenor of the Jalpex 94, and also Zahoor Ansari, Aziz Ansari and his two sons, Amit Gupta Subhash Chandra, Allam Alhindi and K. K. Rastogi for their untiring assistance in the arrangement of the exhibition. He also thanked Shri Salim Raja Secretary, Kala Prakash and the President Rotary Club Midtown for their pivotal role in holding the exhibition. He did not forget to thank Shri Pyare Lal, the trainer of the carrier pigeons and the owner of the boat who carried the Boatmail.

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT UNSORTED MIXTURES

by Bill Olcheski

Have you ever wished you could find a source for truly "unsorted" stamp mixtures? Do not wish too hard, you may get your wish and not be too happy with the results. That was the response of one reader who purchased an unsorted mix. After his experience, he said, "A stamp is worth whatever a knave can make a fool pay for it."

I acquire stamps from many sources, including schools and churches. The accumulations come in many forms, and I buy all of them in order to ensure that the senders will call me the next time they have stamps to sell. The great bulk of the stamps I get are common issues, often with double paper or even cardboard backings. When I appraise such an accumulation, I make an educated guess on what I will have left after I weed out the unsalable and the "other-than-philatelic" material included in the boxes. It is only after I get the stamps home that the real fun begins.

My wife, deciding that I will be 104 years old if I live long enough to get through the stamps I have waiting to be sorted, has become an unpaid "volunteer" who helps with the processing. First we go through the bulk stamps and tear off the extra paper. At the same time, we discard the common stamps on colored paper to prevent some novice collector from ruining a batch of stamps by soaking them with the rest of the contents of the mix and adding some unexpected color to the lot.

At this point, we separate the commemoratives from the definitives and the most common stamps from the rest. At the end of the process, we add in enough commemoratives to make the "beginner bags" interesting.

Although we figure our time is valued at about eight cents per hour, we have a great fringe benefit—sorting gives us the opportunity to discuss everything from books we have read recently to what to give the grandchildren for Christmas.

Suppose we eliminated the processing and made the stamps available in truly "unsorted" mixtures. Let me give you an example of what could happen. I bought a large accumulation from a local school. I try to be generous in my purchase price estimate, as I realize I do not have time to go through all of the material at

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the purchase site. Sometimes I gamble and buy a sealed box, figuring that I am bound to find enough good material to get my money back. The last time I tried that I had purchased a box of thousands of the George Washington 5-cent stamp, all on double paper. Needless to say, there was no point in trying to salvage anything from that box. I put them back in the box and donated them to the stamps for veterans project.

They have many other thousands of stamps to mix with them and turn them into part of an interesting package. If you had sent in \$5 for a truly "unsorted" mix, you might have received thousands of a common stamp.

Another problem with "unsorted" mixes is improper storage. Some of the accumulation boxes may have been stored in a damp place—the mint stamps will be stuck together, and the stamps on colored paper will have bled into the other stamps.

If you were to order an "unsorted worldwide mixture," you could get mostly common U.S. stamps for your money, since the United States is part of the world.

What can you do as a new collector to protect yourself against such deals? First, accept the premise that most stamp dealers are honest and will give you what they say in their ads. Next, be sure you read what the ad says rather than what you would like it to say. Third, never buy an expensive lot without being exactly sure what you are getting—reserving the right to return it if it is not as advertised. Finally, make a sample purchase. If the dealer is offering a \$50 mix, send \$2 or \$3 and ask for a sample of the kind of material you would be getting in the larger lot. If you still want to gamble on an unsorted mix, get in touch with schools and churches in your area and ask them to collect stamps for you. Work out a payment schedule within your budget and then wait for them to call you when they have an accumulation. You might not be pleased every time with what you get, but you will have a lot of fun in the process.

A Stamp-Suggested Solution

by Brian C. Baur

In January 1943, U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt landed in Morocco's seaport city of Casablanca. Here he met with British prime minister Winston Churchill for a series of conferences. With the Allied landings in North Africa a success, the war seemed to be taking a decided turn in favour of the Allied forces. The time was right to decide the future courses to be taken for the final defeat of the Axis powers.

As the conferences progressed, however, one stumbling block constantly resurfaced. The incessant feuding between French generals Henri Giraud and Charles de Gaulle over the leadership of the Free French forces worldwide, but especially in North Africa, threatened to hamper plans for the Allied cooperation and unity in the very face of the turning of fortunes.

The conflict between the two French generals had its origins in May of 1940, when Charles de Gaulle was appointed undersecretary of war in the French cabinet and attended the last desperate meetings of that body before Premier Paul Reynaud was forced to transfer his power to the aged Marshal Henri Petain.

Petaïn declared that he would resign power immediately unless the United States declared war on Germany and took pressure off the French, or his cabinet agreed to a German armistice.

On June 17, 1940, France sued for peace. On that same day Charles de Gaulle left for England and broadcast home to France the following day: "Believe me! Nothing is lost for France! The same methods which have defeated us may one day bring us victory."

General de Gaulle told his countrymen that the fight would have to be continued by patriots in the French colonies around the world. He next declared the existence of the "Free French" forces and named himself the head of that organisation.

In May of 1940, when the Germans had opened their offensive, the French 7th Army was under the command of General Henri Giraud. The 7th, however, quickly fell under the constant German bombardment and joined up with the struggling 9th Army. This merger failed to check the German advance, and Giraud and his men were captured and held prisoners in Saxony.

Giraud managed to escape to Switzerland in the spring of 1942 and then work his way back to Vichy France, where he became a popular figure in the French resistance.

Among the Allied leaders, recognition of French leadership was split. Prime Minister Churchill chose to recognize de Gaulle and his Free French and to maintain open relations with them. On the other hand, President Roosevelt refused to recognise de Gaulle, deciding instead to maintain relations with Petaïn's vichy regime. In doing this he hoped to prevent France's shipping and vital strategic territories from falling into Hitler's hands.

Roosevelt also was concerned about the fighting between Free French forces and Vichy troops at Dakar and Syria and hoped that he and Churchill could convince that French forces to stop fighting each other and concentrate on the Nazi troops instead.

By 1942 the Allies were confident enough of their progress in the war that they were ready to proceed with the next step in their war agenda the invasion of North Africa invasion would place troops from all of the United Allied Nations of the African continent.

Roosevelt began a search for a French leader who had both the respect of French fighting men whom he would have to command in North Africa and an allegiance to the Vichay regime. He decided

that Henri Giraud was the man for the Job, and Giraud was smuggled out of France by submarine to North Africa and was given command of the French troops the day before the invasion was to commence.

One of the reasons for the relative ease of the Allied landing at Morocco was a cease fire order given by French Admiral Jean Darlan which stopped French units from firing on landing troops. When Giraud arrived, he agreed that Darlan would have control over the civil government in North Africa while he would command the French forces. This arrangement put Roosevelt in the unenviable position of an ally with Darlan, one of the most notorious of the Vichy collaborators with the Germans. Roosevelt insisted, however, that the Darlan deal meant that it would take less time and mean fewer casualties to secure North Africa and that he would use Darlan as long as was necessary to achieve that goal.

Fate took a hand on Christmas Eve 1942, when a 20-year-old French monarchist assassinated Darlan. Roosevelt immediately responded by elevating Giraud to head the civil as well as the military affairs in North Africa.

Giraud's elevation infuriated de Gaulle, who decided that Giraud was rivaling him for what he perceived was his rightful place as leader of the French resistance.

It was amid these troubles that Roosevelt departed for Casablanca in January of 1943. Among the topics slated for discussion between Roosevelt and Churchill was the need to get the French leaders to cooperate.

Roosevelt felt that Giraud was willing enough to compromise for the good of the war effort but believed that de Gaulle was a prima donna who was totally preoccupied with his political future at a time when his energies should have been focused toward the need for complete military victory. Roosevelt and Churchill decided that de Gaulle and Giraud should share power and hopefully put an end to the tensions once and for all.

Giraud and de Gaulle were summoned to Casablanca to discuss the situation. Giraud attended promptly, but de Gaulle balked for two days, outraged that he was being considered an equal to Giraud and that he had been invited to participate in a conference of foreign powers on what he considered to be French soil.

It was while waiting for de Gaulle's arrival that President Roosevelt took the time to return to his quarters and relax with one of the numerous stamp albums which always accompanied him on

his travels. While going through his album of Argentinian stamps, Roosevelt noticed a single stamp which gave him an idea that would reconcile the two proud French leaders long enough to complete the strategy meeting and set the stage for the rest of the war conference needed to complete strategy for the downfall of the Axis nations.

The stamp proved to be an Argentina issue (Scott No. 416, Figure 1) whose vignette

included a pair of clasped hands holding a staff surmounted by cap of Liberty such as the French revolutionists had worn in 1789. Roosevelt showed this stamp to his visitor and said. "I suspect that here we have the operation for Giraud and de Gaulle."

When de Gaulle finally arrived just minutes before a press conference was to begin, Roosevelt persuaded him and Giraud to step outside with Churchill and himself for a photosession. After a few photographs were taken, Roosevelt requested that a photo be taken of de Gaulle and Giraud shaking hands, a request neither Frenchman could veto with the eyes of the world press upon them. The result was one of the most famous and recogniz-



Franklin D. Roosevelt



able photos of World War II (Figure 2).

The French leaders , forced into a situation that show them as cooperating with each other, then held their own conference which culminated with the announcement of their tenuous alliance. Although in the end no real agreement was reached between Giraud and de Gaulle, meeting and handshake had the effect Roosevelt desired. The egos of the two French man had been set aside long enough to get on with the business of completing the war strategy meetings, which culminated with the announcement that the Allies would accept nothing less than unconditional surrender from the Axis powers and which laid the final groundwork for the surrender of the Axis powers in North Africa on May 12, 1943.

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**COMMISSION'S DIRECTIVE
TO POSTAL DEPARTMENT**

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed the Department of Posts to pay Rs. 10,000 as compensation to an aggrieved party because there was delay of two days in delivering a letter sent by Speed Post from Hyderabad to an addressee in Delhi. The immunity granted to the Postal Department under the Postal Act from similar suits did not apply to Speed Post, the National Commission held.

The National Commission said the Postal Department had undertaken to deliver the articles within the specified period of time and in consideration there of, a substantial extra charge is levied by way of Speed Post several times the normal postal rate. In such a situation, the bar under Sec 6 of the Indian Postal Act will not apply, and it is open to the party aggrieved by non - delivery or delay in delivery of the article, sent by Speed Post to put forward a claim for compensation against the Postal Department, the National Commission said. Mr. V. Balakrishna Erady, retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. Y. Krishnan and Mr. B.S. Yadav were members of the commission.

Mr. G. Hanumantha Reddy, a retired IAS officer, sent a copy of his photograph to the Editor the Times of India, Delhi, on February 13, 1992 by Speed Post for publication along with an article on him. The article about him was published without his photograph on February 16, because the photograph was received very late. On a complaint by Mr. Hanumantha Reddy, the District Forum of Consumer Redressal with compensation of Rs. 10,000 to Mr. Hanumantha Reddy. The Postal Department filed an appeal before the State Commission, which dismissed the appeal in March last year. The Postal Department then went in appeal to the National Commission, claiming immunity under the Postal Act, but this also was dismissed in March last.

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