



SIPA Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

VOL. 15

NO. 5

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER '94

BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1994 - 1996

All past Presidents
(Ex. Officio Members
of the Committee)

Mr. V.N.S. Rau
Mr. F.P. Seeruvai
Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das

President :-
Vice Presidents :-

Mr. D.H.RAO
JANAB A. RAVOOF
Mr. P.S. SESHADRI
Mr. G. BALAKRISHNADAS
Mr. M.T.KARUNAKARAN
Mr. G.AMARCHAND

Hony. Secretary :-
Joint Secretary :-
Hony. Treasurer
Executive

Committee Members:-

Mr. K.PRASAD
Mr. S.K. LAKSHMANAN
Mrs. P. THOMAS
Mr. V.K. MOHAN
Mr. A.V.RADHAKRISHNAN
Mr. A.C.TRILOKNATH
Mr. J.ROLANDS NELSON

Sipa Bulletin
Hony. Editor :-

Mr. G.MADAN MOHAN DAS

Hony. Librarian :-

Mr. C.S. SANKARA NARAYAN

MINUTES of the 20th Biennial Meeting held on 30.10.1994 11.45 a.m. at Hotel Picnic, Madras. 45 Members were present. Shri D.H. Rao, President welcomed the members after brief review. Shri G. Bala Krishna Das, Hony. Secretary, read the Report for the Biennial period ended 31.3.1994. Shri. G. Amarchand, Hony. Treasurer read the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the above period. Report and Accounts passed unanimously. The above office bearers were elected. After some discussion members approved the enhancement of the Association membership as follows. Ordinary Membership -Rs.60 Life Membership Rs.500/-

Shri P.S. Seshadri joint Secy. proposed a vote of thanks.

Lunch was provided and Auction took place till 4.30 p.m.

Madras
30.10.1994

G. BALAKRISHNA DAS
Hon. Secretary

20TH BIENNIAL REPORT

The President and the Committee have great pleasure in placing before you the Report of the Association for the Biennial period ended 31st March 1994.

MEMBERSHIP

We have as on date 325 Life Members and 165 Ordinary Members. The membership growth has been steady due to the efforts of the members.

MEETINGS

The Second Sunday Meetings of the members of our Association were held regularly at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road H.P.O. without a break whether it rained or shined. The attendance was always good, sometimes touching 45 members. At every meeting new members were introduced and many of our members came up with their collection and gave display talks. To name a few, Shri T. Govindarajulu, Advocate gave a display talk on 'Malaysia', Shri S.K. Lakshmanan gave a studied and researched talk on Great Britain Machine Definitives, Mrs. P. Thomas, a school teacher gave display talks on Christmas, Flora and Fauna and how she made the students at her school get themselves interested in the hobby of stamp collecting. Shri B.N.R. Rao, retired postal employee showed his collection though not mounted in a systematic manner and also the Coins as and when issued. Janab A. Ravoo as usual brought material pertaining to some subject at every meeting to the delight of the members. Shri C.S. Sankaranarayanan, our librarian on two occasions showed his collections of Postal Stationery, Slogans and Advertisements on Stationery. Our Joint Secretary Shri P.S. Seshadri gave a vivid talk on how he started schools of philately in and around schools in Korattur and about his involvement in the Rotary and that he was invited to be a guest with one of the foreign Rotarians and his involvement in the Rotary Movement. Our Doyen Senior Philatelist, roving Philatelic ambassador Shri G. Madan Mohan Das had something in his bag at each of the meetings and kept the members informed about the latest in F.I.P. General, Special Rules, Guidelines of all the disciplines of Philately, Traditional, Postal History, Thematics, Country collections, Fiscals and Rev-

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.)

enues and latest trends in Philately. Our energetic President, Shri D.H. Rao brought something unique and novel at every meeting, philatelic material on ships, stationery, covers signed by commanders of Naval ships which were berthed at Madras Port. He also covered the current news on philately both from India and abroad.

NOTABLE EVENTS :

We had the unique honour to host the Southern Regional/Governing Council Meetings of the apex body the Philatelic Congress of India. Four Seminars were held viz., Traditional Philately by Y.R. Shah, Postal History by Shri Vispi. S. Dastur, Postal Stationery by Shri A.R. Singhee and Fiscals, Revenues and Court Fees of India, by Shri A.M. Mollah with the help of Overhead projector Slide Display. Apart from local members, up-country senior philatelists from Kerala, Karnataka, Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, Jamshedpur, New Delhi, Calcutta, Bhubaneswar etc participated in large numbers. Every one paid glowing tributes to the efforts of the Association in conducting the meetings in a grand manner.

Mr. Rameswar Das Binani (who is the convenor of Thematic Chapter of P.C.I.) conducted workshop on Thematic Philately at Govt. Museum. The meeting was well received by all.

The 7th Regional State Level Philatelic Exhibition 'TANAPEX-93' was held at Trichy with 400 frames. The committee included our President Shri D.H. Rao, Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Shri G. Amarchand and Shri G. Balakrishna Das. Shri S. Kuppuswamy, Circle Philatelic Officer spared no pains in making the exhibition a grand success and the standard of exhibition was high, everyone following the latest guidelines of F.I.P. We are really very proud to say that our successive presidents have been and are being inducted into the Regional Philatelic Advisory Committees our advice and suggestions were readily implemented by the Chief Postmaster General, Shri V. Balaguru and his ably assisted PMGs and Directors and his departmental personnel. We have very cordial relationships with the postal department right from the Chief Postmaster General to the personnel of the Philatelic Bureau and they continue to place the spacious philatelic Bureau at our disposal to conduct our Second Sunday Meetings without any break. We thank the Directorate of New Delhi for sending us STAMP NEWS every month.

GENERAL

Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelist is regarded as the World's pre-eminent philatelic honour. Instituted at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in 1920, the Roll was first signed in 1921 by King George V and thirty nine others. To sign the roll on 18th September 1993 at the 75th Philatelic congress of Great Britain held at Edinburgh, the Philatelic Congress of India President, Brig Virk was invited. He was the second Indian to receive this honour. Shri D.N. Jatia, now president of International Federation of Philately, signed it in 1983.

Many of our Senior Life Members took active part in the promotion of Philately by getting the highest awards both at NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL Exhibitions; by acting as Jury Members at State, National and International Exhibitions. Besides many of them are on the Philatelic Advisory Committee both at New Delhi Directorate and State Regional Postal circles.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Past President, Member of the Governing Council of Philatelic Congress of India was appointed as the COMMISSIONER for BANGKOK '93 - WORLD Philatelic Exhibition under F.I.P. auspicious and he took with him nearly twenty Exhibits. His efforts to project the activities of our Association throughout the length and breadth of our country, highlighting the activities of the Association and his clarity and dedicated efforts in giving timely articles in SIPA BULLETIN were commendable. We pray Lord to give many more years of health and strength to our veteran Philatelist, Shri V.N.S. Rau who not

only promoted philately but also put firmly the Philatelic activities in the south in the national map of our country, guiding and goading youngsters to take to the hobby of philately seriously. Our Association which completes 38 years of useful existence in the promotion of philately is thankful to all the members who have steered its activities steadily in an unassuming manner and brought credit not only to themselves but to the association to which they belong. We are also thankful for useful suggestions and guidance from Shri U. Mohan Rao. Shri Ajit Chordia, our Life Member who readily came forward to bear the expenses of one issue of "MAYUR a Quarterly Bulletin for the Chapter for the Promotion of Youth Philately" run by Philatelic congress of India.

We regret to report the death in January 1993 of Shri P.M. Medhora, the editor of INDIA'S STAMP JOURNAL, President of the Empire of India Philatelic Society who was killed with his wife in a rioting incident in Bombay.

Other senior philatelists, Shri S. Ramaswamy, our past president, Shri S.M. Doss of Madras, Shri S. Ganesan of Hyderabad, Dr. Aswin Patel of Baroda also breathed their last.

Our SIPA Bi-Monthly Bulletins kept our members informed of the latest development, GREVS/SREVS and the GUIDELINES in the various disciplines of Philately under the 'F.I.P. Guidelines' besides articles of lasting interest.

FINANCES

Our Association finances were taken care of by our ever agile. Hony. Treasurer Shri G. Amarchand who kept a close vigil on the finances and took interest in investing the funds in various public limited companies. We also thank him in providing us space in his home to house our LIBRARY and hold our committee Meetings besides the usual third Sunday Meetings.

LIBRARY

Shri C.S. Sankaranarayanan, our Librarian took great pains in arranging the Books, Journals and got them bound and was ever ready to oblige our members who wanted to borrow and/or pursue them. We also added a few books to our library. We would be failing in our duty if we do not record the donations from the following members:

Shri Norensingh Nahar, Shri D.H. Rao, Shri V.N.S. Rau, Mrs. & Mr. Ramanujan, Shri A. Prabhakarraj of Cuddalore. We also thank Shri Mr. N. Narayanan for distributing philatelic pamphlets at our monthly meetings.

We thank our Auditors, M/s, BADRI & SUDAKARA, Chartered Accountants in auditing our Accounts and submitting their Report at short notice and Shri K. Prasad for finalising the Accounts, before Audit and the Report.

We thank the numerous Philatelic Associations/Clubs; dealers/Auctioneers for sending their Journals, Bulletins, Price lists, Catalogues which kept our members informed of the latest activities and latest price trends. We also thank various Newspapers and also 'HALLO! MADRAS' for inclusion of the Association Name, Address & Place of Monthly Meetings in their issues.

We take this opportunity once again to thank one and all and request our members to extend the same cooperation and strengthen the ties of goodwill and fellowship and make our Association grow from strength to strength.

(Sd.) D.H. RAO
President

(Sd.) G. BALAKRISHNADAS
(Sd.) P.S. SESHADRI
Hony. Secretaries

MADRAS
29.09.94

TIME TO REVIEW BASICS OF COLLECTING

Vacation marks the end of the school year. For most students, this means a time of review of what they have learned. It also brings a test of what they have retained. Beginning stamp collectors could profit by applying a few tests to their basic stamp collecting knowledge and thereby find areas in which they need to "brush up".

Discovering stamp collecting brings with it a wave of enthusiasm. The novice rushes out and buys stamps and supplies, maybe even an album, before he or she has any real idea of what he or she is going to collect. The next thing that happens is that the box marked "to be sorted later" soon becomes the largest part of the collection. This can be an overwhelming experience.

Let us look at how to deal with this problem. Set the "sort later" box on a large table. Put the mint stamps in one pile and the used ones in another.

Separate the on-paper stamps from those that have been soaked off the paper. Put a supply of glassiness cover - or even ordinary envelopes - alongside the stack. Now, you are ready to begin sorting.

Mark the envelopes with the names of the countries from which you have stamps. Place the off-paper from those countries in the proper envelopes. The on-paper stamps should be placed in a "soak" pile for processing as soon as possible.

Many people - that includes me - consider soaking stamps off paper as pure drudgery. You can take some of the pain out of the process by having a few collector friends join you for a "soaking party". Each guest will need a container in which to soak the stamps. Fill it partially with warm water. I have seen recommendations that only hot water or cold water should be used, but I personally do not see any difference in the results. To start, give each guest a handful of stamps - keeping the number small makes it easier to see progress. You soon will discover that the "helpers" will be commenting on the different type stamps and asking questions about them. The shared knowledge resulting from the questions is an added bonus.

Once the stamps have been soaked off the paper, they should be placed face down on a newspaper to dry. You will recall from your earlier days of collecting the importance of not putting stamps on colored paper in with the others you are soaking. Should you put such stamps in the same water with the others, the color will run and produce color varieties of the stamps the Postal Service would never recognize. The same precaution must be taken when you put the stamps on the newspapers to dry. If the newspaper has colored advertisements or comics, the wet stamps will pick up some of the colors.

As you work through the sorting process, consider which stamps are of most interest to you and which ones you are most likely to want to continue collecting. Place the stamps of least interest to one side. These are the stamps you will have available to swap or sell.

Watermarks and perforations are two factors that will affect where your stamps belong in your album.

Many new collectors are mystified by watermarks. Some of them solve the problem by ignoring the marks. To do so can be an expensive mistake. A watermark is simply a mark made in the paper stock on which the stamps are to be printed.

Watermarks are most prevalent and pose the most problems on stamps of foreign countries. India stamps of recent years are printed on unwatermarked paper.

In many cases, the watermark is visible to the naked eye. In others, it only can be found by immersing the stamp in watermark detection fluid. A small amount of the fluid is placed in a dark dish. The stamp then is dipped in the fluid, making the watermark clearly visible. Watermark fluid can be used on either mint or used stamps and will not damage the stamps or leave any marks on them.

A couple of precautions: Inhaling watermark detection fluid fumes can make you sick. Watermark fluid will burn rapidly if exposed to an open flame. This warning especially is directed at those who smoke. If you feel you have to smoke, do it far away from the watermark fluid.

Only take a small amount of the fluid to test for a watermark. Pour just enough into the dish to cover the stamp. Tightly cork the remainder of the bottle- watermark fluid is expensive and evaporates very rapidly. If you leave the top off and forget it for a couple of hours, you could end up with an empty container.

Another area which confuses beginners is perforations - the holes along the stamp edges which make it possible to separate the stamps. The methods used to

make the holes are not uniform. Therefore, it is necessary to have a way to measure the holes to determine where the stamp goes in your collection. (A slight difference in perforations could separate an ordinary stamp from a valuable one). There is an easy way to measure perforations, - a device called a "perforation gauge". Some of the gauges are elaborate and can be expensive; some are printed on clear plastic, making it possible to measure the perf. while the stamp is still on the envelope. The simplest ones are made of card board or plastic and of rows of printed dots. The perforations are measured by sliding the stamp up and down the gauge until the row of dots exactly matches the holes on the side the stamp. Perforation always are measured first across the top and then down the side.

Many Indian stamps are perforated 11 x 10 1/2. This does not mean that there are eleven holes across the top of the stamp. It means there are eleven perforations in the space of twenty millimeters, about 13/16 of an inch.

A final note : Where and how you store your stamps can be very important. If they are sorted in a damp area, they will stick together and become worthless as collections' items. to bring them in a hot, dry place - such as a shelf in a closet - also can result in damage to stamps. The heat can cause the gum to crack. It also can cause stamp mounts to shrink and squeeze the stamps until they pull apart at the perforations.

While this column is aimed at beginners, periodic review of the basics is a good idea for collectors at every experience level.