



SIPA Bulletin

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BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(FOUNDED 1956)

(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

EDITORIAL:

Two notable events took place during the month of August 1996 in Madras. The long awaited Ninth Circle Level Philatelic Exhibition took place in the spacious Indoor Stadium, University Union Grounds, 85/86, Spartank Road, Chetput Madras 600 031 from 12th to 14th August, 1996 styled as IX TAMILNADU PHILATELIC EXHIBITION. Shri N.V.N. SOMU, Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence Government of India inaugurated the Exhibition by lighting the Kuthuvillaku before an august gathering. There were nearly 400 frames of philatelic material displayed. Invitee Exhibits from the eminent philatelists :- Dr. Mrs.Sita Bateja had put up her Classics which was put up in CAPEX '96 at Toronto in the Championship class; Shri G.Madan Mohan Das displayed his researched Classics and Shri G.Balakrishnadas put on his Convention States Shri.G.M.Pujari Errors of Travancore and Cochin States. Mr.P.Soundararajan displayed in India Airmails.

Besides there were on display material from the Postal Museum, New Delhi and Nasik Press had sent in material on how stationery is printed and also how colour printing in various colours are made. It was really a treat to watch these Invitee Exhibits-- HEAD INVERTED FOUR ANNAS. Dr.(Mrs.) Sita Batheja and Mr.Sunder Bahirwani were the Jury Members besides Shri Rambhat PMG Central Region was the Departmental Jury. Shri.S.Brahmanandham, Chief Postmaster General was the Chairman of the Jury.Hearty Congratulations to the Award Winners. A notable feature of this exhibition is that many of the competitors were members of our Association. Awards list with the Jury Report is printed in this issue.

The second notable event coinciding with the exhibition and to meet many of the outstation members, the 21st Biennial Generalbody Meeting of the Association took place in the airconditioned Hall of Hotel Palm Grove 5, Kodambakkam High Road, Madras 600034, at 10/30 am on 15.8.96 wherein 87 members attended. This is a record

attendance for any GB Meeting of our Association. The Biennial Report was read by Shri G.Balakrishnadas and the Audited Accounts of the Association and Ecopex-95 Accounts were read by Mr. K. Prasad under the Chairmanship of Janab A.Ravooof, Vice President in the unavoidable absence of our President Shri D.H.Rao. The Report and Accounts were put to vote and unanimously approved by the members present. Next, Elections for ensuing biennial period ending 31/3/1998 took place.

Shri G.Madan Mohan Das was made the Patron of our Association for his outstanding contribution for the growth of our Association for his very many endeavours in popularising the hobby of Philately in our country and abroad.

Shri G.Balakrishnadas one of the Founder Members was elected unopposed by one voice as President. Shri Ajit Choradia and M.T.Karunakaran were elected Vice Presidents. Shri J.Rolands Nelson and Shri C.S.Sankaranarayanan were made Secretaries. Shri. G.Amarchand Treasurer. The following committee Members were elected: 1) Shri K.Prasad, 2) Mr. Hamid Jalal, 3) Shri V.K.Mohan 4) Mr.C.G.Bhaskar and 6)Mrs. P.Thomas. After some discussions Shri.P.Soundararajan was coopted as a Committee Member.

Shri.C.S.Sankaranarayanan was again elected Librarian and Shri. G.Madan Mohan Das as Editor of SIPA BULLETIN. Our Auditors Badari & Shudakara were again voted for another two years. All the past Presidents of our Association - Shri. D.H.Rao and Shri.F.P.Servai & Shri. G.Madan Mohan Das are *IPSO* Facto Committee Member, of our Association. With a vote of thanks the Meeting came to an end. Sumptuous lunch was provided to the members. Auction took place in the afternoon. With a cup of coffee the Meeting came to a close.

We are thankful to the outstation members who came in large numbers and made the meeting a memorable one.

Editor:

SIPA MEETINGS :

Second Sunday of every month -Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road Head Post Office, Madras 600 002.(10.30a.m. -12.30p.m.)
first and third Sunday of every month - Auction meetings at our Library Hall at 6 Nannian Street, Madras - 3. (Timing 10.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)
SIPA Library Open Tuesday & Sunday, 6 Nannain Street, Madras - 3. (7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.)



BLESSED ALPHONSA

19.7.96 Printed 0.4 million Re.1.00



Sister Alphonsa was born at Kudamaloor, near Kottayam in Kerala on 19th August, 1910, she joined the Clarist Congregation of nuns to dedicate her life entirely to God and the service of humanity. For a short period she worked as a teacher. In spite of her ill health she avidly pursued her mission and brought out great spiritual enhancement in the lives of the people around her. She was beatified by His Holiness Pope John Paul II on 8th February 1986 at Kottayam, the first woman from India to be raised to this honour.

She breathed her last on 28th July 1946 at Bharananganam where her mortal remains lie buried. Over the years, Bharananganam has become a center of pilgrimage attracting thousands of pilgrims - Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Her life and work has become the subject for more than 20 books some in European languages like, France, Italian and Spanish.

Department of Post issued a commemorative stamp to mark the 50th death anniversary of Blessed Alphonsa on 19-07-96.

Design Credits:- Stamp and FDC :- Shri Sankha Samantha Cancellation Alka Sharma.

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VIDESH SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED

02.8.96 Printed 0.4 million Rs.5.00



Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), was incorporated under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 to take over the activities of erstwhile Overseas Communication Service (OCS). As a successor to

former organisation providing external communications services, VSNL has completed 125 years of operation and its ninth as VSNL.

The first was of Indian Independence in 1857 forced the British to look for a safe direct link of communication to India and the answer was Submarine Telegraph Company. The first submarine cable link was laid between Alexandria and Malta in 1860 and continued to expand.

Sir Jhon Pender, the Chairman of the British India Submarine Telegraph Company, established in 1869, as the moving force behind this scheme. On June 23, 1870, he received the first cable from India and the Overseas Communication Service was open to public from the next day. This company was later taken over by the East India Telegraph Company (ETC) in 1872.

Soon thereafter when wireless communication was invented the Indian Radio Telegraph Company (IRT) was registered in India in 1923. So ETC and IRT, merged to form the 'Indian Radio and Cable Communication Company' (IRCC). On January 1, 1947, its functions were taken over by the 'Overseas Communication Service', a Government department which continued till April 1986 when it was converted into a wholly Government owned Company, namely the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. Today it operates four main gateway centers at Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi, and Madras which have computerised telephone, telex and telegraph switching exchanges. The international telecommunications circuits are derived from communications satellites of the INTELSAT and INMARSAT and wide band submarine telephone cable across the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. INTELSAT and IMARSAT are inter - Governmental consortia where VSNL is the 10th largest and 8th largest operator in the world respectively.

VSNL operates satellite earth stations at Arvi near Pune, Dehradun, Bombay, New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bangalore. Maritime mobile communications through INMARSAT Global network are routed via VSNL Land Earth Station established at Arvi near Pune. VSNL operates three submarine telephone cables.

VSNL services include telephone, telèx, telegraph, packet switch data, radiophoto, television, T-Fax, teleconference, video conference, multi -address broadcast, press newscast, meteorological broadcast, mailbox, E-Fax, intelsat business services, Home Country Direct Services, Electronics Mail Services, International Maritime Mobile Communication. VSNL has launched a new service "Global Network Service" (GNS) in partnership with British Telecom, U.K., the first of its kind in India, in addition to regular Hindi Service "Namaskar Seva" to U.S.A. in collaboration with AT&T, an operator assisted Hindi language service has been commenced to U.S.A. in collaboration with M/s MCI.

It is now offering International Direct Dialing (IDD) to 237 destinations world wide from over 4,466 towns and cities of India.

Amongst the major projects that VSNL has executed in the VIII Five Year Plan are two full-fledged INTELSAT Standard-A Earth Station at Calcutta and Madras, under Sea Fibre Optic Cable System SEA-ME-WE-2.

Projects under implementation are expansion of simultaneous conversation capability to 30,000 FLAG Under Sea Optical Fibre Cable SEA-ME-WE-3 under Sea Optical Fibre Cable Project etc., VSNL is also planning the introduction of a host of business services for the benefit of indigenous business and industry in the international market.

The Department of Post marks the completion of 125 years by the issue of the special postage stamp

on VSNL . The Stamp and first day cover are based on designs by SATISH GUJRAL who has used the traditional spirnal form to symbolise universal communication systems.

Credits : Text :- VSNL ;

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SIR PHEROZESHAH METHA

4.8.96 Printed 0.4 million Re.1.00



Sir Pherozeshah Metha was born in Bombay on 4th August 1845. He went to England to specialise in law and there he was influenced by Dadabhai Naoroji who became his political "guru". On being called to the Bar in 1868 he returned to India and was soon in the forefront of Bombay's legal

luminaries.

His eloquent plea for Muncipal Reform was later embodied in the Act of 1872 and Municipal Act 1988. He became the father of Bombay Municipal Charter, founder of its glorious civic tradition. He was elected President of the Corporation on no fewer than four occasions 1884, 1885, 1905 and 1911.

In 1885 the Bombay Presidency Association came into being. He was the President of the socio-Political organisation right from its inception to the day of his death. On of the doya of the Indian National Congress he was its driving force for four decades and presided over the 6th session in 1890 in Calcutta.

Pherozshah Metha was nominated to the Bombay Legislative Council in 1887 and elected to the Imperial Council by the Bombay Legislature in 1893.

He founded the Central Bank of India and the English daily "The Bombay Chronicle".

The Department of Post is happy to issue a commemorative postage stamp to mark the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sir Pherozshah Metha.

Credits:- Sir Pherozsha Metha Endowment, Bombay

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AHILYA BAI HOLKAR

25.8.96 Printed 0.4 million Re.2.00



Ahilya Bai, daughter of Manakoji Shinde was born in 1725 in the village of Chowndi situated in Ahmednager district. As there was no school at Chowndi besides its was not the custom to educate girls in those times. Manakoji however did all

he could to impart education to his daughter at home. In 1733 she was married. Her husband Khanderao was killed in the battle of Kumbher in 1754. Ahilya Bai then learnt to run the princely State of Holkar under the stewardship of her father -in-law Malharao Holkar. With

the death of her father-in-law in 1766, the entire responsibility of running the State devolved on her. She proved to be an enlightened ruler from then onwards, till her death in 1795.

She shifted her capital to Maheshwar in 1766 where she did a lot to develop the textile industry of Maheshwari. If Maheshwari Sarees are today a symbol of Indian Creaftmanship, it was Ahilyabai's liberal patronage of the weavers that helped to foste this institution. In addition she invited artists of different strems and settled them in her 'Raj'. Her liberal charities were extended to people without reference to caste, creed, etc.,

Not merely in her State but indeed in other parts of India she is credited with promoting cultural activities including repair and additions to a number of famous temples such as Kashi Viswanath Mandir at Varanasi, Gouri Somnath Mandir at Cholla and the constructio of the famous Dasaswamedh Ghat at Banaras.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a stamp on Ahilya Bai Holkar in Celebration of the 200th death anniversary

Design Credit:- stamp-Sankha Samantha.

Cancellation:- Alka Sharma.

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CHEMBAI VAIDYANATHA BHAGAVATHAR

28.8.96 Printed 0.4 million Re.1.00



Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar was born on 28.08.1896 at Chembai, a village in Palaghat in Kerala. This small district is the birth place of vertable doyens of Karnatic music, the most significant being Chembai Vaidyanatha

Bhagavathar, who was popularly known as 'Chembai'.

At a very early age, 'chembai' literally stormed the music world with his performances in South India. During those performances he was accompanied regularly by the masters, Puthukotta Dakshinamoorthi Pillai (Ganjira), Malaikottai Govindaswami pillai (Violin) and Kumbakonam Azhakanambi Pillai (Mridamgam) . He went on to give performances all over the country and his fame spread far and wide.

His illustrious contemporaries were Sri Ariyakkudi Ramanuja Iyengar, Maharajapuram Viswanatha Iyer, Palghat Rama Bhagavather and others.

Recognition came to him in the form of titles from several music organisations. "Gayana Gandharva" , "Sangetha Kalanidhi" and "Sangeetha Samrat" are a few of such famous titles. The title of "Sangeetha Kalanidhi" was received by him when he presided over "Vidwas Sadas" of Music Academy at Madras in 1951.

His 78th birthday was celebrated at Guruvayoor in 1i 1973 where the devotees and musicians conferred him the title "Abhinava Thyagabrahmam"

The Government of India conferred on him the President's National Award in 1958, and honoured him with the "Padma Bhushan" in 1973. But titles and national honours touched him, little. His eternal service was dedicated to the Lord of Guruvayoor to whom he gave his earning from concerts from his 60th year. He used to say that the title he liked most was as a devotee of Guruvayoorappan".

He passed away at the age of 79 and the loss was indeed irreparable to the lovers of Karnatic music.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a stamp to pay homage to this great musician on the occasion of his birth centenary .

Design Credits :- Stamp and Cancellation Sankha Samantha



C A P E X ' 9 6 -- A MEMORABLE OCCASSION



**Dr. (Mrs.) SITA BHATEJA,
National Commissioner.**

First of all let me say something about the TORONTO City. It is a well planned clean city. The citizens care for the city. It is pollution free and there are lots of healthy activities for the young spirited. I was

impressed to know that this is the only city in the world which has no slums. The waterfront and the C.N.Tower are superb.

It has lots of films to show on the conservation and environment. Thousands of people visit the Tower everyday and learn about environment, conservation and space. The city has French and English influence. It has absorbed the best of both. There are lot of ethnic groups living in harmony. No colour bar is evident. Shopping in Toronto is a pleasure. They have well-stocked great malls at reasonable prices. The people of Toronto are cheerful and friendly. The television projected Toronto as the most livable city in the world.

NOW CAPEX : Total frames were over 5000. There are 78 stalls of vendors, 4 stalls of Agents, 152 countries were represented by their Postal administration stalls, 21 societies were represented with stalls. 29 Large Gold; 94 Gold; 138 Large Vermeil; 138 Vermeil; 145 Large Silver. 104 Silver; 60 Large Bronze; 28 bronze and 8 certificates of Participation were given besides may Special Awards. List of Indian Participants who competed from India and won Awards were published in the last issue of SIPA Bulletin. Hearty congratulations to every one of them.

PROGRAMME: On 8th of June the inauguration took place. It was called the Canada Post Day. It was a

charming, short and sweet function. The last stamp of the Land vehicle was unveiled at this function. The presence of Shri.D.N.Jatia, President F.I.P. added dignity and solemnity for the inauguration function. 14th June was Maple Leaf Day; 15th June was Space Day; 16th was Father's Day. Each day had special philatelic releases and cancellations. Celebrities of the respective days were present to give autographs.

Everyday had programmes and seminars and meeting of various Societies of the world. Lots of Philatelic promotional activities took place. The Jury Room was always buzzing with activity and they did their work diligently. The Commissioners met everyday to solve their problems. The result by the Jury was out by 16th June and I was happy to see that India did very well as against their dismal performances at Atlanta. India looked after in good hotels with modern facilities. The hospitality was fabulous. The Postal authorities and Philatelic societies of various countries held receptions. The presence of Mr.D.N.Jatia was very valued at these functions and his presece was heart warming for us all.

The visit to Niagara Falls, arranged for Jury Members and Commissioners by the Organising Committee, gave us a chance to witness the breathtaking beauty of the falls, which cannot ever be forgotten. We had a hearty lunch and visited a famous Canadian winery.

Mr.B.N.Som of the Department of Post, Government of India visited the Exhibition to get first hand knowledge of its organisation.

The organising Committee worked very hard behind the scenes and organised an excellent exhibition. I do hope that INDIA 97 will be as good, if not better . . .



NEW ZEALAND EXTINCT BIRDS

The same qualities that have made many New Zealand birds distinct from others around the world have also helped to made them extinct. Flightlessness and bulk, along with tens of thousands of years living in a predator-free environment, left many

bird species vulnerable when they began sharing these islands with humans and introduced predators.

\$1.00 Piopio

The piopio is considered to be a primitive relative of the bowerbirds and birds-of-paradise of Australia and New Guinea. Widespread at the time of European settlement, the spread of introduced predators saw numbers of piopio decline until it finally vanished around the turn of the century.

\$1.20 Huia

Large and beautiful with orangae wattles, the huia was



PHILATELIC BUREAU
WANGANUI N.Z.
Date of Issue: 2 October 1996

Since the arrival of Humans on New Zealand shores about 1000 years ago, over 40 species of birds have become extinct owing to an inability to adapt to changing ecological circumstances.

A feature that makes this new stamp issue unique is the description of the bird that appears on the back of each of six set stamps. This is the first occasion that text has appeared on the reverse side of New Zealand stamps since advertising messages were printed on the back of the 1893 second sideface stamps.

40c Adzebill

This powerful, turkey-sized, flightless bird was extinct before the arrival of Europeans 200 years ago, but bones of the species have been found at North and South Island sites, including Maori kitchen middens. Not a great deal is known about the Adzebill, but with its huge beak and strong neck muscles it appears to have been superbly adapted for digging.

80c Laughing Owl

Once common throughout New Zealand, the nocturnal Laughing owl (or Whekau) made its last stand in the sub-alpine areas of the South Island's Southern Alps, where the last recorded sightings was in 1916. About twice the size of a morepork, with its unusually long and powerful legs, the laughing owl was probably more adapted to hunting on the ground than most other owls.

the only bird in the world whose male and female forms had radically different-shaped beaks. Maori hunted the Huia for feathers, while Europeans sought it for museum collections. The last reliable sighting of the huia occurred in 1907.

\$1.50 Giant eagle

With a wingspan of up to three meters, and talons of up to 75mm long, this was the largest eagle ever known. Three complete skeletons of this bird have been found, the last in a cave near Nelson in 1989. The Giant eagle was presumed to have preyed on the other birds, especially moas.

\$1.80 Giant moa

This bird's dimensions—three meters from head to claw, and a weight of around 250 kilograms—make it one of the largest birds known anywhere in the world. Giant moas were found throughout New Zealand, but most commonly in lowland areas of the South Island. This species was hunted to extinction by the Maori around 500 years ago.

40c Stout-legged wren

Closely related to the rifleman, which is still living, this was the largest of five species of wren to become extinct in the last 500 years. This smallest known flightless bird in the world the stout-legged wren has robust legs suggesting it spent much time on the ground.

Date of issue 2nd October 1996.

Courtesy : **New Zealand Post**



Spot the kid collector:

It's the one good at Trivial Pursuit by Anne-Marie Sapsted

IN AN era when manufacturers frantically capture children's attention with ever more sophisticated gadgets and mechanical wizardry, it is no wonder that stamp collecting is no longer as popular as it once was.

But after the dramatic decline suffered by the hobby through the Eighties, Royal Mail and its youth marketing manager Julietta Edgar are delighted that the trend has halted and interest is slowly beginning to grow again.

Two years ago Royal Mail commissioned a survey into collector's habits. It found that children begin collecting at about seven or eight and continue until their early teens, with the core group at eight or nine years old.

Most adolescents subsequently put away their stamps in favour of the opposite sex and other interesting discoveries; but years later, after settling down and starting families of their own, they take it up again in their mid-thirties.

The survey shows that 82 percent of adult collectors began their collections as children and come back to it in this way, encouraging their own children to take an interest too.

The research indicates that most child collectors have an interested adult in the background. "Initially, interest is split roughly equally between boys and girls," says Edgar, "but more boys maintain interest as they get older." Boys are also more interested in the nuts and bolts of philately, while girls go for the aesthetic side of collecting.

"Children's motivation is also different from that of adults," says Edgar. "Children are far more interested in what is on the stamp, and they go for quantity.

"They aren't terribly interested in display, usually, with most of them likely to keep their stamps in an old shoe box or loose in some other way. Adults are much more particular about presentation".

At the beginning of the Eighties, Royal Mail decided for the first time to encourage children to take an interest in stamps and began a children's club.

Launched on the back of Kellogg's cornflakes packets, that first promotion attracted a few thousand responses; today membership is more than 60,000.

"Stamp-collecting has got an old-fashioned image - though its reputation isn't as bad as train-spotting, at least people can see a reason for it - and Royal Mail is trying to raise awareness of stamps. "But it's in a very competitive and increasingly sophisticated leisure market, where children are a lot more discerning and have a lot more decision making

power than they once did.

"Stamp-collecting is still a matter of using hinges and tweezers, as it's always been."

while at one time part of the appeal of collecting was that stamps could be collected from far-away places that could only be imagined, the world has now become a much smaller place.

"Children now have pictures of anywhere in the world readily accessible on their television screens, or they may even have been to glamorous or remote place on holiday. Yet stamp-collecting does retain great educational value," says Edgar.

"You can often spot child collectors, they're usually good at Trivial Pursuit; they have lots of snippets of knowledge about a broad range of subjects, particularly geography. It also encourages useful skills such as organisation, presentation and the ability to research."

Author notices the tell-tale signs of young stamp collectors and their motivation

With this in mind, Royal Mail now regularly provides 23,000 schools all over the country with a variety of National Curriculum oriented project work. Last year, for instance, there was a programme linked to Henry VIII and the TUDORS aimed at encouraging letter-writing.

"We are not pushing Stamp-collecting in the classroom' what we are trying to do is raise awareness of stamps by providing a valuable educational resource," says Edgar.

One particularly successful promotion last year run in the Beano comic. Each of 300,000 copies of the magazine carried a free pack of 10 stamps and included a membership application form for the Royal Mail Collector's Club.

As a bonus there was a promise that 10 of these packs included a Penny Black, valued at between £25 and £50, depending on condition. The promotion attracted 5,000 new members, 70 per cent of whom had never collected stamps before.

For more information about the Collectors' Club, local Post Offices have details and application forms.

It cost £7 for five years' membership and includes a thrice yearly magazine, details of every new issue, and a new collector's kit including a starter pack of 100 used British stamps.

[Courtesy : The Daily Telegraph (London) Jan 19, 1996]

JUDGES AND JUDGED NEED CLEAR RULES

By Neville Watterson B.P.E.

ENTRANT AND judge often appear to be on opposite sides of the fence. There are allegations that judges do not know enough about the material on display, that they exhibit personal preferences, or more generally, that "they do not know what they are talking about!" Judges are asked to comment upon the entries and to indicate why they judged the one to be first, another to be second and another to be nowhere.

If the judges have any sensitivity, they will consider first the pride of the entrant and secondly the quality of the material. They will thereby temporise, to no-one's satisfaction. If they are candid, they are considered to be rude, favouring only material they know, or simply of being bigheaded. Neither party can 'win'.

It is necessary in the first place to have adequate and clear 'rules' to say what is the object of the competition. This will require a division into classes, to separate juniors from seniors, stamps from postal history, etc., Within these divisions (or classes) certain factors should be stated and their importance indicated by a marking system.

The entrant will know at least broadly what is required of him and the judges will know what to look for and how to apportion the marks. The entrant needs rules; then he needs to read them.

The judge needs rules, in good time, so that he arrives at the venue prepared and knowing more or less what to expect. A simple marking sheet will help to avoid misunderstandings.

Many stamps clubs do this already. Some do not, maybe they do not know to write a set of rules, or do not know where to seek the necessary advice.

The B.P.F. sets out rules for their national competition, but these are thought by many collectors to be for the initiated only, not explicit enough or maybe they do not have access to them.

However there must be more to it than just having a good set of rules in order that the paths to the common ground are made easier to travel and that the two parties are more likely to meet.

An entrant must appreciate that a competition entry is not just so many album pages taken straight from his collection -but the rules do not tell him that! There must be a careful selection of material, chosen to illustrate a 'purpose', set out to occupy the number of pages asked for, so that each page contains a similar density of material laid out harmoniously, such that the whole entry, as seen on the display stands, has a pleasing homogeneity.

The layout should be neat and tidy, but also interesting. This involves the write-up.

Only the information which is not obvious should be given, although its appearance on the page will also influence what is written. A postal history write-up will often need to be more than other classes, but again brevity and clarity are essential. Presentation may well carry about one third of the marks.

'Philatelic knowledge' frequently appears in competition rules, together with 'research' and/or 'study'. Basic catalogue information is not likely to score many marks. But there must be much which has been 'looked-up' by the average collector which would be relevant, and interesting. It

should not be confused with 'original research' in its strictest form. If it is interesting, it may be worth mentioning; if it is 'different', so much the better; it is 'new' ('original?')..better still.

Reference is often made to 'importance' and this can apply either to the entry as a whole or to certain items in the entry.

Impact

Material should have a strong impact upon the 'purpose' and must be material which is not often seen, or the treatment of it is not often seen. (This also relates to 'originality' which may be referred to in a set of rules). Information about an item which is 'new', may be 'important'. Straight mint sets and other 'run-of-the-mill' material are not 'important'.

The judge needs to know what the entrant is about, so that when he looks through the entry he will see if the 'purpose' has been fulfilled or not. In doing this he notes whether the arrangement is neat and tidy, well balanced and pleasing; is the interest sustained; is the information adequate, succinct and lucid. Are the facts corrected?

Is the 'purpose' followed logically and in a well-connected sequence? Is the material appropriate and complete; what is conspicuous by its absence? Is the material in a consistent and first class condition? Unusual and 'difficult-to-locate' items should be looked for as well as 'condition for age'. Does the philatelic knowledge show a good background knowledge coupled with an enquiring mind; is there any 'new' information? Has it 'all been done before'?

There is a need for authoritative guideline for competitors and judges. Taken together they would throw light on the problems of the other party, leading to a better all-round understanding. The discussion of competitor vs judge should then become enlightening, and even, hopefully, profitable.

TOPICALS - - ALL TOPICS



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