



SIPA Bulletin

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BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

EDITORIAL:

At short notice a Meeting of the Committee Members of the Association (SIPA) was called at the Chief Postmaster General's Office at 3.30 p.m. with the officials of the Tamilnadu Circle with Shri B.N. SOM, Dy. Director General (Philately), Department Posts, New Delhi on 25/4/1996 at Madras. Shri B.N. Som, D.D.G. (Philately) addressed the meeting. He gave a brief resume of the meeting held at New Delhi of the Philatelic Advisory Committee. He said that the long awaited news about INDIA - '97, WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION will take place at Pragathi Maidan, New Delhi from 18th to 23rd Dec., 1997 in about 2,500 frames and Rs.6 crores has been allocated for the same, which will cover the rent, making of frames, booking hotel accomodation for Jury and commissioners under the auspices and in cooperation of the Philatelic Congress of India. He said about the long and short term plans of the Dept. for the promotion of Philately and especially for the sales promotion of Indian commomoratives and he expected to cover by sales at India 1997.

He said during the year a number of sets of stamps will be issued, say 10 more and nearly 49 personalities will be issued during 1996.

All the sets will be in high denominations of Rs.5/- the members present felt that this policy will deter the promotion of Philately and will not bring in the younger generation to the hobby.

The members brought out to the notice of the Dept. that so far the programme for 1996 issues have not yet been realized. STAMP NEWS from the Dept. has not been mailed to the Association and other Members from January, 1996, Service at the various Philatelic Bureaus in the country was very bad.

Stamps, FDCs, Information sheets were not given to the Philatelists as they say, they receive only limited FDCs and information Sheets which is not sufficient to meet the demand of the Account holders. Philatelic Bureaus should be man and by the trained personnel and counters/Bureaus should have some

face lift and Media publicity is very poor. D.D.G. (Philately) assured to look in this image of our National Heritage by issuance of stamp during 1997 and members, others should submit within two months the same and approved designs will be paid by the Dept. Suitably Mr. G. Amarchand brought to the notice of the Dept. about non-availability of the Philatelic accessories and what steps are taken in that direction.

Wishing all our Members and their family A HAPPY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 1996. SIPA BULLETIN HAS COMPLETED 16 years of useful service started and kept up very efficiently by the past Editor Shri M.T. KARUNAKARAN and by your Hny. Editor of this Bulletin. We are striving to improve the quality of the SIPA Bulletin and would request members to give their constructive suggestions for the same.

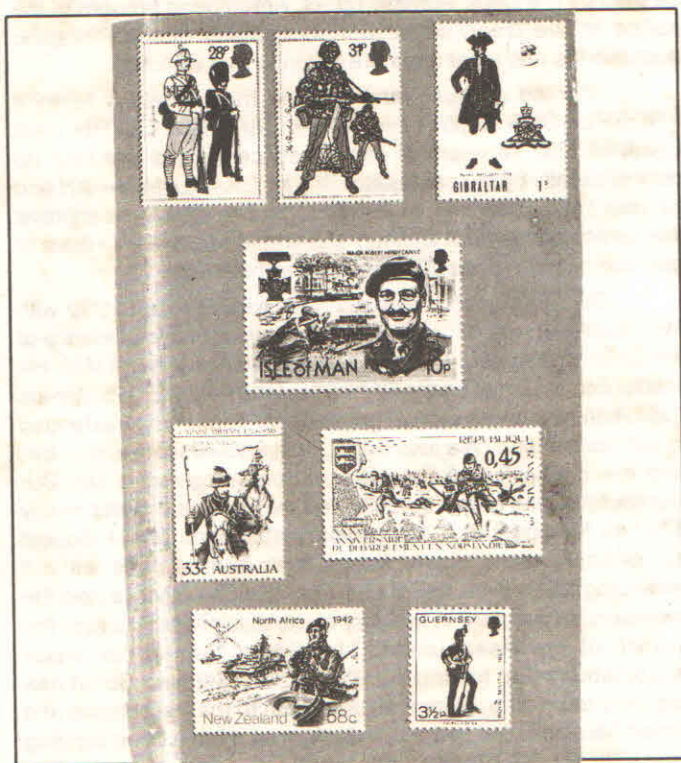
Our Association maintain very cordial relationship with the Postal Department and under the very dynamic guidance of the Chief Postmaster General Shri. S. BRAHMANANDAM. He readily consented to be the PATRON of the ECOPEX'95 Stamps Exhibition. We owe a debt of gratitude for cooperation extended to our Association. We also thank all the Advertisers and public and the media for all the encouragement given to us. Our Membership has grown steadily and we have as on date nearly 376 Life Members and 120 ordinary members. May I request our ordinary members to renew their annual dues without reminding them once more. Our Association activities and the members involvement in the very many disciplines has kept the growth of our Association. The Editor thanks our sister Associations for having sent their Magazines, Bulletines regularly to us on a reciprocal basis both to the Association and its members and also to the few dealers who have been sending their PRICE LISTS regularly to members.

In Tamilnadu, the Chief Postmaster General, Shri. S. BRAHMANANDAM has definitely chalked out a programme to conduct Regional Exhibitions. He started a JUNIORS Exhibitions in the UNION TERRITORY of Pondicherry in about 60 Frames with three days from 3rd to 5th Jan. 1996

SIPA MEETINGS

Second Sunday of every month - Regular meeting at the Philatelic Bureadu. Anna Road Post Office, Madras - 600 002.
(10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.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.)

and also highlighting the achievements of the territory in three special covers with three different cancellations (Pictorial) WORKSHOP on PHILATELY too, conduct of course in active cooperation of our Association members. Again from Jan,26 to 28 1996 WESTANA 96 -- REGIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, Western Region comprising Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Periar, Salem and Dharmapuri Districts in about 200 frames. The standard of the Exhibits were good and the response from the philatelists and the business houses were really encouraging. We are likely to have the STATE LEVEL EXHIBITION -- TANAPEX - '96 sometime in August and may we request all our members to prepare their exhibits from now on and enter the same in large numbers. We are thankful to the Chief Post Master General, Shri. S. BRAHMANANDAM, to set aside a portion of the ANNA ROAD HEAD POST OFFICE for setting up a PHILATELIC MUSEUM and having the same fully Airconditioned and also put on DISPLAY THE AWARD WINNING EXHIBITS of the Members of our Association at NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS. The formal INAUGURATION is eagerly awaited and also placing the A/C Hall for holding our second Sunday Meetings regularly there. Contributions to the SIPA is most welcome. Our second sunday meetings are well attended and members bring in their collections for display and give talks too on the same. A good sign indeed.



Thematic - WAR GAMES

A thematic collection is constructed with stamps arranged in a planned and logical sequence from a wide range of countries to illustrate an idea or a story. The simplest is the subject collection which presents stamps with a common design, such as aircraft or an omnibus Europa or Silver Wedding collection, arranged alphabetically by country, or by type or date. The more usual thematic collection weaves together stamps completely

different in design and subject matter to unfold a story. The same aircraft from a subject collection can be arrayed very differently to from the basis of 'Winged Flight', which would illustrate the development of the aeroplane, and incorporate inventors, pioneer flights and aviators. Personally, I find this much more satisfying. It needs a great deal of solid research, and also one must give some thought as to the purpose of the collection. If it is solely to please yourself and entertain friends and neighbouring societies, then drawings, maps, cigarette cards, newspaper cuttings and other ephemera are all perfectly admissible to enhance the display. The only criterion here is one's own pleasure. But for national or international exhibitions there are strict limitations, and a study of the rules will show that the ingredients for a thematic entry are stamps and other postal items, and the exclusion of non-philatelic material that might overshadow the stamp content. First Day covers, miniature sheets and Maximum cards may be used, but sparingly as they take up a great deal of space, sometimes better used by stamps, without necessarily adding to the story. Maximum cards, where the stamp is affixed to the picture side of a postcard, can have the stamp, the card and the cancellation all matching, or the three can be associated but not identical.

Military uniforms make a spectacular display with their brilliant colours, styles, arms and accoutrements. Other European nations have produced some eye-catching designs and superb battle scenes. If limited to the British Army alone there is plenty of material. Gibraltar contributed a series of regiments that have served on the Rock, and Antigua followed suit. Many more regiments have come from the Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific islands, usually reproducing uniforms current at the time of the regiments' visits. Ciskei, one of the new African homelands, issued an interesting strip in 1983 showing different types of uniforms worn by the 6th Foot at the time of the Kaffir Wars.

It would however be daunting to take on the entire British Army as a thematic presentation, although stamps on that wide subject could be gathered in a stockbook waiting for the boundaries of the theme can easily be divided into sub-sections, perhaps into a series of battles or campaigns, the actual number depending on one's personal choice. The Crimea War 1854 might well be a sub-title with a section devoted to Florence Nightingale (GB 1970) and her new nursing service (Australia 1955), and its development in wartime to embrace the Army nurse of World War I (GB 1974), and the horse-drawn and motorised ambulances of 1877 and 1917 (Jersey 1977). Another section could deal with the battles of the campaign such as Balaclava where the charge of the Light Brigade took place under the leadership of Lord Cardigan. Arrogant, Quarrelsome, but Courageous, the 7th Earl rode well ahead of his 600 men directly into the Russian guns as ordered, and then, unscathed, and seemingly oblivious to the loss of more than a third of his men and nearly all the horses, returned to his private yacht for dinner. Cardigan's portrait was produced on a cover issued by the National Army Museum in 1970, and letters from him and other military commanders can be found and utilised. Various historical events are commemorated by official covers from the Army, Royal Marine, Fleet Air Arm and RAF Museums. These are admirable for displays, but letters from soldiers actually serving with the specific regiment are more advantageous in a competition. The British Forces Postal Service frequently commemorates battles, personnel, equipment etc with special pictorial handstamps. If

the cancellation alone is needed, to save destroying the cover it can be mounted on the back of the album leaf and threaded through a slit to the front to show only the necessary postal mark.

The supreme medal for courage, the Victoria Cross, is made from the bronze guns captured in the Crimea at Sebastopol. Several V.C. holders have been honoured on stamps. The Manxman Major General Stuart White (IOM 1983) who won the award at Charasiah during the Second Afghan War, later successfully defended Ladysmith for 120 days during the Boer War. South Africa has produced some handsome stamps for the battles of the Zulu and Boer wars.

There are many stamps and plenty of postal material that would add interest to a military theme on WWII. The Occupation of the Channel Islands, the only British soil to be occupied by the enemy, during the 1939-45 war, is recalled by the set honouring the Dame of Sark (Guernsey 1984). Her calm dignity so impressed the Germans that she was treated with the greatest respect. The exiled governments of Poland and Norway issued stamps to be used on mail from their merchant ships at sea. For the 40th anniversary of D-Day, Denmark and Brazil recently commemorated the part played by their nationals in the Italian campaign, and Poles in Britain today remember in pictorial handstamps the deeds of the Polish Brigade. The final choice of theme might be the development of a particular regiment or the evolution of uniform. The 60th Foot was raised in 1775 as the Royal American (Montserrat 1979 - Private of 1783), but its forerunners fought French and Indians in Canada. They soon devised inconspicuous clothes and guerrilla tactics, forming with 95th Rifles Corps, using green uniforms as a type of camouflage. The Rifle Brigade regiments were the first to be armed with the new more accurate Baker rifle (St. Helena 1971), and won high esteem as specially trained mobile troops, raiding in small groups ahead of the army like modern Commandos. Regrouped with 43rd/52nd Light Infantry they were lifted out of the line regiments and now form the Royal Green Jackets.

The Parachute Regiment (GB 1983) was raised in 1940, patterned on the German parachutists who over-ran Europe. With their distinctive red berets they won the German nickname of 'Red Devils' because of their ferocity in battle at El Alamein. Paratroopers initiated a different concept of war. Green Jackets of the 6th Airborne Division were the first to land in occupied Europe on D-Day (Grenada 1970) to seize vital bridges. Three months later the 1st Airborne Division was dropped at Arnhem to pave the way for an armoured thrust across Holland to Germany. But resistance was too strong, and five VCs were won before the British were forced to withdraw. A company under a wounded Major Robert Cain at Oosterbeek Crossroads, repelled tanks, and, heavily outnumbered, defended their sector for six days, a deed that won him a VC (IOM 1981).

A military theme, like any other, depends on the angle of approach, and whatever items are included, a well-rounded story depends as much on the material firmly but reluctantly discarded. By BARBARA LAST

Book Review

GULF POST

Story of the post in the Gulf : Mr. Mahbub Jamal Zahedi, Sanaa Publications, 103, Shireen Court, 1707, Clifton, Karachi

75600. Price Rs. 150, US \$10.

The authors efforts to bring out a consolidated postal history book on the Gulf nations is laudable.

The book begins with a chapter on general evolution of postal system and how Rowland Hill had contributed to the popularity of philately by inventing an adhesive stamp in England. It is studded with quotes from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the importance of postal systems, and other anecdotes.

Next couple of chapters lucidly deals with the history of postal system in the Arabian Gulf nations. The Indian and the British postal systems' contributions were well chronicled.

To understand the postal history of one nation, one must first understand its geo-political history. Aply, the author took pains to concisely present the history of each Gulf nation, namely Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, and followed it by its postal history.

All these works have been interspersed with beautiful colour photos of the stamps in a black background.

Important of all for a philatelist is the information on key stamps and errors. The author rightly enumerated errors of stamps in each country and it will prove handy for philatelists.

Apart from a keen philatelist, the author is a senior journalist. The years of his experience as a journalist in leading newspapers is evident in chronicling the history of each nation and presenting the facts accordingly.

This work will be an asset for philatelists who are set to exhibit their collections. It will help them prepare their write-ups impressively.

The typesetting is impressive, but the binding is awful. Almost half of the pages in the book came unstuck.

By Mr. R. VAIDYANADHAN Editor - The HINDU.

ASTRO-PHILATELIC DESIGN CONTEST

The Astro Space Stamp Society invites designs on Fantasy Astronomy, Anniversary in any format like se-tenant, miniature sheet, single stamp.

The designs should incorporate the following : ASSS, the issuing country, value indicator and a legend of upto 24 characters identifying the space theme.

Further information can be had from Mr. Brian Lockyer, Dept. Space Design, Astro Space Stamp Society, 21, Exford Close, Weston Super Mare BS23 4RE, United Kingdom, on sending two international reply coupons.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR PLANNING-PRINTING-PUBLICITY

1947 to 1996 is a long period. To be exact, fifty years have passed, but unfortunately, the Indian Postal Department has hardly applied its mind on Planning, Printing and Publicity, the three important factors on which promotion of philately depends. Fifty precious years have been wasted inspite of having proper resources, enough talent and a vast culture this country has in store. It seems no one has the value of time, everyone seems to be in deep slumber and no one seems to have the necessary push and initiative.

Preparedness is essential in every day life either at home or office where you work. Once the great motor magnet, Mr. Henry Ford was asked by a friend, "Mr. Ford, is there a secret of success?" and Mr. Ford replied, "Getting ready. Before everything else get ready." What Mr. Ford meant was preparedness and planning in advance.

We are entering the New Year 1996 with a hope that the Indian Postal Department apply its mind first on planning when chalking out a year's programme as other philatelically advanced countries do. Stamps are issued without any notice and advance publicity with the result stamp collectors and general public are totally unaware as to what is going on in this country. Foreign stamp collectors suffer the most and in disgust, they have stopped collecting current Indian stamps. Actually, we are at the receiving end a scores of letters pour-in as we are connected with SIPA. We wonder, as to what excuse we are supposed to give for the department's carelessness, negligence and inefficiency?

We have already received the stamp issuing programme for the year 1996 from about four leading countries, whereas small countries like Maldives, Bhutan, Thailand, Jersey Is., just to name a few, regularly send stamp bulletins for every issue with full details and illustrations in actual colours or good quality black and white photographs a couple of months in advance. On the other hand India has a sickening publicity policy. We do not get the details of stamps to be issued till the last day. Indian stamp magazines publish the information after the event is over, so you can well imagine the fate of foreign stamp collectors.

A number of countries and remote islands which are publicity minded do earn a big slice of foreign exchange through philatelic sales which fact is known to the postal department and those who work on the Philatelic Advisory Committee. It is our personal experience that the advice and suggestions given by the advisory committee are hardly implemented. The philatelic advisory committee is simply a status symbol.

Printing technology has taken big strides in the recent years and the result is extremely colourful stamps issued by most of the countries and small islands depicting various themes have extensive sales. Examples are on record that tiny islands with very small population have filled their coffers with the help of philatelic revenue. Our country having vast culture can certainly put up a better performance, but it seems, sincerity of purpose, foresight and administrative ability are sadly lacking. We simply would not like to put stress on earning of philatelic revenue only, but, we would like to see finer things of Indian art and culture depicted on stamps so that the world may know what India has to show which other countries have not got. We always talk about attracting foreign tourists to India, but have we ever tried in the right and proper perspective projecting the image of this country through stamps? Stamps carry our messages to far off countries because they are our roving ambassadors.

Efficient and up-to-date philatelic service plays an important role in promoting the hobby and increasing sale of stamps. This principle is strictly followed by most of the countries, but alas, we do the other way round. Philatelic service at various Philatelic Bureaux is to say the least, extremely wretched. Not a single philatelic bureau is well equipped with stamps, first day covers and folders. Of late Bombay Philatelic

Bureau has earned a very bad reputation. A number of stamp collectors have complained that they never get their requirements on the day of issue. A person asking for a block of four or a complete sheet is told that there is no sufficient stock and only one stamp per person is given by the philatelic officer in charge. In short sale of stamps is rationed which sounds rather strange. As this has happened time and again, we would like to know from the Presidency Postmaster preferably in writing as to what has gone wrong at the Philatelic Bureau. If the stamps and first day covers are not available freely on the day of issue, then where is the point in maintaining philatelic bureau. Besides, many of the stamps supplied are either creased or having damaged perforations which have no philatelic value.

God alone knows when there will be a silver lining to the dark philatelic clouds. Will the sun ever penetrate the dark clouds and give us some sunshine in the New Year 1996?



CRICKET - INDIA

13.3.96

Rs.2.00

Printed 1 Million

Cricket - a game that has the heady magic of an addition for sportsmen who have become legends in their lifetime and beyond. This set of four stamps issued by Department of Post pays a tribute to cricket and to some of India's legendary cricketers who gave the game its early impetus and set the trend which was to be followed by equally brilliant successors on the pitch.

Col. C.K. Nayudu (1985-1967) was India's first captain in Test Cricket and the best all-rounder of the time. A right handed batsman, he was a hard-hitting foot player, driving on both sides of the wicket and also a more than useful slow-medium change bowler, with a controlled spin. With a game career from

1916 to 1964, he became the elder statesman of Indian Cricket, playing in a first class match in his sixty ninth year, going on to become a Test selector and Vice President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He played 207 matches and 7 tests with a run total of 11,852 (average 33.94) and his highest score was 204, 411 wickets, 171 catches and 1 stumping. He was the first Indian cricketer to be honoured with 'Padma Bhushan' by the Government of India in 1955 in recognition to his contribution to the development of sports. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has instituted 'Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy' for cricketers under 22 years of age in 1974-75 as a tribute to him.

Prof. D.B. Deodhar (1982-1993) was popularly known as the grand old man of Indian Cricket. He was the oldest first class cricketer at the time of his death and was the last of the cricketers who made their first class debut before the first World War, in the year 1911-12. He was a solid right-handed middle-order batsman. He was Vice President of the BCCI and was also a national selector. He was President of the Maharashtra Cricket Association since its inception. Deodhar Trophy, a limited over inter-zonal competition played in India since 1973, is named after him. He played 81 matches with a run total of 4522 (average 39.32) and highest score of 246; 11 wickets; 70 catches.

Vinoo Mankad (1917-1978) : Mulvantrai Himmatrai Mankad widely known as 'Vinoo' was one of India's greatest all-rounders in cricket. He was a right-handed batsman varying his drive according to the state of the game. Watchful in defence, the late-cut (or dab), leg hit or cover drive earned him most of his runs; he was a high quality, left arm orthodox slow bowler, with a slightly round-arm action who spin the ball unusually strongly and his flight and length were almost invariably perfect. His over would last a little more than a minute, allowing no rest to a batsman. He captained the Indian team in test cricket in the 1954-55 tour of Pakistan. He played 233 matches and 44 tests with a total of 11,591 runs to his credit (average 24.70) and a highest score of 231; 782 wickets; 180 catches. He has the distinction of highest first wicket partnership with Pankaj Roy in Test cricket (431 run partnership). He was chosen Wisden Cricketer in 1947. He was awarded life membership of MCC in 1967.

Vijay Merchant (1911-1987) was an outstanding Test batsman. His comparatively small physique did not handicap him, for what he lacked in reach was compensated by perfect footwork and quick reflexes. Right-handed, his cutting, both square and late was brilliant, and he hooked, drove (especially the fast bowlers) and played the ball off his legs with mastery. He was a careful builder of an innings and there was something softly feline about him at the wicket. He played 150 Matches and 10 Tests with 13,470 runs (average 71.64) and a highest score of 359 not out; 65 wickets; 115 catches.



RITU RANG

13.3.96

Rs. 5.00 each

STAMP NEWS

Printed 10 lakhs

India has been an intricate tapestry of cultures embroidered with indigenous art forms and art form that came from over mountains and across seas. The delicate art of Indian Miniature Painting, which began with the Mughals, was one such

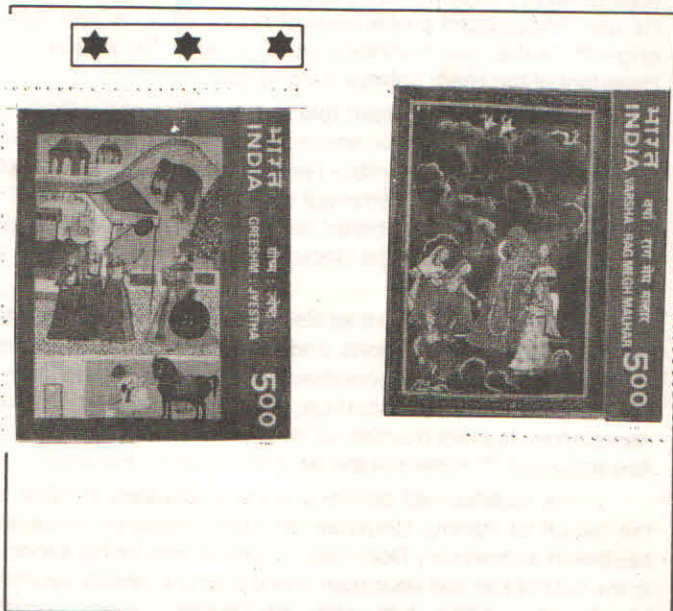
expression of Indo-Saracenic genius.

The early miniatures depicting scenes from the courts of the Mughal Emperors gradually adopted themes of the ancient land, spread from Kangra, Rajasthan to the Deccan. In each area, various sub-schools of the art developed. The charm of this style was enhanced by the representation of Jayadeva's 'Gita Govind' and Keshav Das's 'Kavipriya' and 'Rasikpriya' in the exquisite visuals of the miniatures. These blended pulsating poetic expression with the colours of nature, weaving the romantic and the mystic in unrivalled harmony.

All aspects of life were touched upon, nothing being too minute for these sensitive portrayals. One such aspect was the depiction of seasons : Vasant, Greeshm, Varsha, Sharad, Hemant and Shishir. The six seasons of India were described in Kalidasa's 'Ritusamhara' where each season was celebrated in the language of romantic love. This tradition was continued by writers who extolled the beauties of each month and each season.

'Ritu Rang' is the tribute of India Post to this rich tradition of colour, poetry and art. Four miniature paintings have been selected for this special set of postage stamps depicting Vasant (Spring), Greeshm (Summer), Varsha (Monsoon) and Hemant (Winter). Vasant is reflected in a painting on Rag Basanti, a musical mode which embodies the spirit of spring. In the month of Jyeshtha, the warrior is deterred from pursuing his campaign in the sweltering heat of Greeshm (Summer) followed by Varsha, the life-giving season of the monsoons, expressed in Rag Megh Malhar in praise of rain, where even kings revel in costumes, music and dance. Hemant is the heart of Winter, only warded off by the warmth of fire while snuggling into the folds of a quilt in the month of Pausha. Each painting highlights the essence of the season it depicts: flowering Vasant; the heat haze of Greeshm; lightning snaking through the dark clouds of Varsha; and the biting cold of Hemant.

This delightful blend of the pictures drawn by pen and paint is featured on this special issue of stamps and its first day cover. The cancellation is based on a border design.





P.K. KUNJI LAL DUBEY

18.3.96 Rs.1.00 Printed 0.6 Million

Pandit Kunji Lal Dubey was born in Amgaon (Bada) in district Narsinghpur to a cultured family on 18th March, 1896. After obtaining his primary education at the village school of Kareli, he studied upto middle school at Narsingpur. In 1914, he completed school at Akola and went on to graduate from Robertson College at Jabalpur in 1918. After obtaining a first class degree in law from Allahabad in 1920, he began practice in Jabalpur in 1920. Influenced by such stalwarts as Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and Narhari Chintamani Kelkar, Pt. Kunji Lal Dubey entered the arena of freedom struggle against the oppression of foreign rulers in India. In 1937 he became a member of the All India Congress Committee. He staged a Satyagraha in 1941 for which he was sent to jail for a term of 6 months. After his release from jail he joined the Quit India Movement in 1942 and was once again arrested. Released after almost two years in 1944 he dedicated himself to the upliftment of education and society.

In 1950 Pt. Kunji Lal Dubey was elected the Chancellor of Nagpur University and the President of the Inter University Board of India, Burma and Ceylon. As a leading educationist he was committed to the use of the mother tongue as medium of education. As the Chancellor of Nagpur University he got major texts used in the University translated into Hindi and Marathi. He also encouraged preparation of about 75 texts and many original works. His services won for him the position of President of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan.

He also took an active role in the politics of his state. In 1946 and 1952 he was twice elected as a member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly. He held charge as the Finance Minister in the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1967. He will always be remembered for his constructive opposition during his long tenure as the Deputy Leader of the opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

Pt. Kunji Lal Dubey was also deeply interested in sports. His encouragement of sports and fine arts in the Universities won recognition with his appointment as President of the Madhya Pradesh Olympic Association, Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, founder member of the Madhya Pradesh Lalit Kala Academy and President of the All India Ayurved Parishad.

His multifaceted services were recognized in 1964 by the award of Padma Bhushan. In 1965 Jabalpur University bestowed an honorary Doctorate of Law on him for his services in the field of law and education and Vikram University awarded him D. Litt. in 1967. A towering intellectual in Hindi, English,

Marathi and Sanskrit, Pt. Dubey was a simple man and extremely ethical in his personal and public life. He passed away on 2nd July, 1970.

The Department of Post issues a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Pt. Kunji Lal Dubey on his birth anniversary.



MORARJI DESAI

10.4. 1996 Rs.1.00 Printed 4 lakhs

Morarji Ranchhodji Desai was born on February 29, 1896 at Bhadeli, a little village near Bulsar in Gujarat to Ranchhodji Desai and Vajiaben. His father was a teacher in the Bhavnagar State in Saurashtra.

Beginning his education in a humble manner at the village school, he went on after matriculation to graduate from Wilson College, Bombay, in 1912. A religious and stringent background inculcated in him the habits of self-discipline and thrift. It is not surprising therefore that he grew up to become a practicing Gandhian and, as the fourth Prime Minister of India, it was in character with him to say that, "I seek neither popularity nor unpopularity. I am all for discipline".

While studying for the Intermediate examinations, he had the opportunity to study five volumes of the Physical Culture Encyclopedia of Bernad McFadden which developed in him a lasting faith in nature cure. After graduation he appeared for the Indian Civil Service Examination, seeking appointment as a Deputy Collector in the Bombay Presidency in 1918. He remained in Government Service till his resignation during the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Long before he actually resigned, he felt he had made a mistake in serving a foreign Government all these years.

He was imprisoned thrice after 1940 for participation in the freedom movement. This only served to make him more devoted and resolute.

He was elected a Member of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee and became its Secretary from 1931-37. In 1937 he was elected to Bombay Legislative Assembly and was Minister for Forest in the first Congress Government and later served as the Revenue and Home Minister of Bombay. In 1952, after the first general elections, he became the Chief Minister of Bombay, continuing in that capacity till the reorganisation of States in 1956. He was instrumental in introducing far-reaching reforms in land revenue,

administration and also in police and jail administration. In 1956, he joined the Union Cabinet as Minister of Commerce and Industry, subsequently dealing with the portfolio of Finance and leading delegations to various countries abroad in connection with the IMF and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Morarji Desai was the second Prime Minister of India to rise from very humble origins, the first being Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. His brief period of Prime Ministership ended on July 28, 1978 when he stepped down.

He is often known as one of the last important followers of the Gandhian way of life. Integration of the philosophy of the Bhagwad Gita with political thinking was the hallmark of Morarji Desai. He was no blind follower. He adopted what were important in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, laying

emphasis only on the purest means for the achievement of any objective. His lifestyle was spartan. He did not believe in rituals nor did he subscribe to idol worship. He did not observe the caste system. He was a firm believer in the Swadeshi and National Education and was closely associated with Gujarat Vidyapeeth at Ahmedabad, with Lok Bharati, a rural University in Gujarat and also with several cultural, academic and social organisations. What made him stand apart was the fact that even those who disagreed with him never doubted his sincerity. His long and outstanding service to the nation earned for him the highest civilian award of India, the "Bharat Ratna". He died on April 10, 1995 a little short of his 100th birthday.

The Department of Post honours his memory with the issue of a commemorative postage stamp.

Philatelic Knowledge in Thematic Philately

By Rameshwardas Binani, Convenor : Thematic Chapter, PCI

Philatelic Knowledge carries 20 marks and a competitor can obtain majority of it by proper understanding of it. Many of the collectors think that philatelic knowledge should be obvious from the text of the philatelic materials shown as :-

- (A) Perforation; (B) Date of issue; (C) Purpose of issue.
- (D) Description of each common items as F.D.C., Post Cards, etc.,

If not, then what is philatelic knowledge? Selection of different appropriate philatelic materials which can speak for themselves and putting them in appropriate places in a thematic collection is philatelic knowledge.

To make the matter more clear, we may divide this subject in some parts :

- 1 Acquiring philatelic knowledge.
- 2 To include different philatelic elements.
- 3 To exclude non-philatelic materials.
- 4 Quality Materials.
 - 4.1 Philatelic quality.
 - 4.2 Technical quality.
- 5 Philatelic studies.
- 6 Specific knowledge of philatelic element.
- 7 Knowing about and acquiring different materials.

1 ACQUIRING PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE

1.1 READING AND STUDYING

There are plenty of books and periodicals. These include some special Thematic Philatelic books. Although, the idea and facts of all these may not be accurate, it definitely builds up a strong foundation. Alongside general philatelic reading materials, World Catalogue is very helpful.

1.2 MEMBERSHIP IN SOCIETIES

This provides you, above all, with contacts. Some people are walking oracles either on special subjects or in general. They are also glad to refer you to the specialist on the subject in question. You can, in fact, come across the entire range of knowledge there, from the greatest specialists to those who regularly reel off the most patent non-sense. You ought, therefore, to ascertain the reputation of your source.

1.3 VISITING EXHIBITIONS

At national and international exhibitions, collections are displayed which have come through the selection process. In addition, the dealers who are present also provide information. Thematic collector can in addition gather a wealth of philatelic knowledge by going and having a look at the exhibits in the other categories, such as postal history, postal stationery and traditional philately.

2 TO INCLUDE DIFFERENT PHILATELIC ELEMENTS.

One of the great principles and at the same time one of the great attractions of thematic philately is that we must make use of all the types of philatelic elements which exist. Some of the varieties are listed below :-

SIPA BULLETIN

2.1 ESSAYS

The Guidelines mention among the items to be used "Material destined for issue, or produced during the preparation of an issue, such as sketches, proofs and so on" (Ex. No.1)

2.2 PROOFS

Proofs which are commissioned by the post office authorities without doubt are philatelic material. It does not matter whether or not these proofs led to the production of the actual stamp issued. (Ex. No.2)

2.3 POSTAGE STAMPS

Under this heading come not only ordinary stamps but also airmail, express, official and parcel stamps. In traditional philately it is possible to refer to matter such as variations of perforation and printing process etc., The thematic philatelist does not find it so easy to refer to these types of variation. However, possibilities do sometimes present themselves with some themes.

2.3.1 USED OR UNUSED

The one rule which exists on this subject is that mint and used stamps should not appear on the same page. There is no official preference for used or unused. The majority of collectors however choose mint stamps because they run less risk with mint stamps when it comes to clarity of the design.

2.3.2. STAMPS OR STAMPS ON COVER?

We must have really good reasons for including an entire letter, only on account of the stamp. In the case of a letter if only the stamp matters, there are almost never any thematic reasons for putting the letter in its entirety. There are certain philatelic reasons which persuade us to show an entire letter where only the stamp relates to the theme. The stamp is much rarer on cover than off cover. Eye-catching varieties, unusual (single) frankings, older stamps with a tab from a stamp booklet. Censorshilabels, special postal markings, strips or postmarks, postal errors or well-travelled cover etc., are appreciated. (Ex.No.3)

2.3.3. THEIR VARIETIES

* Different examples

A principal rule in thematic philately is that, where stamps are of the same design, only one example is included.

* Overprints; * Perforation; * Back of the stamp.

There are stamps which carry text on the back such as advertisements, maps, etc., (Ex.No.4)

* Stamps in Miniature sheets and blocks. (Ex.No.5)

Stamps with Tabs. (Ex.No.6)

Tabs should not be shown without stamp being joined with that.

* Sheet Margin. (Ex.No.7)

2.4 STAMP BOOKLETS

Stamp from booklets may provide philatelic varieties when compared with the stamps from normal sheets along with these. There are four components of booklets which are of importance,

namely

- * THE TABS
- * THE SHEET-MARGINS
- * THE FLY-LEAVES
- * THE COVER

All parts of booklets can be used but an empty booklet is not a philatelic element and, therefore, should not be used.

2.5 POSTAL STATIONERY

Postal stationery are those philatelic items issued with an imprinted franking value. These exist in a large variety of types. As examples I mention postcards with illustration on the address side (Ex.No.8) as well as on the other side (Ex.No.9), envelopes, wrappers (Ex.No.10) newspapers; commemorative aerogrammes (Ex.No.11) advertisement lettercards (Ex.No.12)

Everything which is put on postal stationery before or at the same time of printing of imprinted franking value, is usable in the thematic collection. Entire stationery should be shown in the collection.

To avoid confusion with picture postcard, the photo copy of the imprinted stamp to be shown, if you are showing back side of a post card.

2.6 ITEMS WITH IMPRINTED INDICATION OF FREE POSTAGE

Just as postal stationery, there are items which state, directly or indirectly, that the item concerned may be sent post free. (Ex.No.13)

2.7 INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS.

2.8. METERMARKS

We can distinguish three sections in the metermarks

1. The section for the name of the country and the franking value (but it should not be 0.00)
2. The section for place-name and date.
3. The section which the user can employ for information of his own organisation. (Many organisations do not care to use this part).

All the 3 parts can be used if related to theme but they must be shown together. (Ex.No.14)

2.9. POSTMARKS

Postmarks cover an enormous area and give the thematic collectors an inexhaustible source of possibilities.

2.9.1. Only the words "First day of Issue" appearing very frequently in the USA should not be used because the postmark does not give any thematic information.

If cover is included for the sake of the cancellation it can generally be windowed. Genuine travelled covers are preferred as against cancelled to order. (Ex.No.15)

2.9.2 POSTMARKS WITH POSTAL INFORMATION

Transit and arrival marks generally do not find any place in thematic philately but "Postmarks giving details of non delivery such as "Too late for today's train" "Return due to floods" etc. are very interesting. (Ex.No.16)

2.9.3 SPECIAL/PICTORIAL CANCELLATIONS.

(A) Issued to commemorate certain occasions for a limited

period. (Ex.No.17)

(B) Permanent pictorial cancellation generally provided at the post office of places of tourist attraction. (Ex.No.18)

2.10 POSTAL LABELS AND NOTES

Registration or cash on delivery labels sometimes include the name of the sender's organisation. A letter with such a label is an advantage for the collection. (Ex.No.19)

2.11 MAXICARD

The term Maximum Card or "Maximum Card" indicates the greatest possible concordance which can be achieved between card, stamp and postmark. The use of maximum cards ought to remain limited to a few important items, to make the information on the stamp more elaborately visible (Ex.No.20) However, the design of the card should not be an exact enlargement of the stamp itself (Ex.No.21). The cancellation must have a thematic relevance.

2.12 TELEGRAM

In order to eliminate all doubts about exhitng telegram, the General Regulations state that suitable philatelic material is that material which is issued for the purpose of the conveyance of the mail or for the purpose of other postal communications. They usually find their way into the thematic collection because of illustrations (greeting telegrams) (Ex.No.22) or advertisement messages. (Ex.No.23)

2.13 AIRGRAPHS

During the 2nd W.W., the great quantity of mail of concentrated allied troops gave rise to this type of mail. In these cases, forms were distributed for writing letters. Those were then put on film which were transported by air for development and delivery to the addressee. (Ex.No.24)

2.14 WATERMARKS

Watermark design of a stamp and postal stationery can be used, in the collection to add glamour to philatelic knowledge as very few such items fit in a thematic collection. (Ex.No.25)

2.15 OTHER SPECIAL ITEMS

- * Money Order Receipt (Ex.No.26)
- * First Flight Cover (Ex.No.27)
- * Pigeon Post (Ex.No.28)
- * Disinfected Letter
- * Baloon Cover (Ex.No.29)
- * Army Cover (Ex.No.30)
- * Expedition Cover (Ex.No.31)
- * Moon Cover (Ex.No.32)
- * Local Post
- * Die Card
- * Army Mail (Ex.No.33)
- * Strike Mail
- * Echo Card (Ex.No.34)
- * Certificate of posting (Ex.No.35)

3 TO EXCLUDE NON-PHILATELIC ITEMS

It is very common to see non philatelic materials in the collection of all standards because of the temptation to add colourful items such as photo, picture postcard, newspaper

objects like butterfly, dry flowers etc., Some of the confusing items are listed hereunder.

3.1 DRAWING

Drawing can be included only to supplement text, if at all necessary so that the development may be better understood.

3.2 OLD DOCUMENTS/LETTER

Old documents/letter which still appear are non-philatelic items and should not be included on the grounds of the age of the document.

3.3 VIGNETTES

The distinguishing mark of a vignette is non-philatelic and serves no postal purpose. The second type of the most frequently occurring form of printed vignette is the little printed picture on first day covers. Mail items with that kind of imprinted vignette are valued less than envelope from ordinary everyday mail. (Ex.No.35A)

3.4 ILLUSTRATIONS ON NON-POSTAL STATIONERY ITEM

The very fact that something has been sent through the post does not automatically become philatelic item. In a collection of the OLYMPIC GAMES, a printed envelope which was used in 1928 by the Netherlands Olympic Committee appeared. The competitor had even added to it a sheet of the matching printed writing paper. The jury had to declare this to be invalid.

3.5 PRIVATE SECONDARY HANDSTAMPS

Private Secondary cancels are marks which serve no postal purpose unlike those which indicate free postage. A frequently occurring form is the private secondary handstamp on Antarctic Expedition covers. (Ex.No.31)

3.6 SENDER-ADDRESSEE-LETTER CONTENTS

The guideline is absolutely clear on this point. As "Private Information", these items do not come into consideration. (Ex.No.28) On the other hand, such private information can be used if the sender enjoys postage privileges. (Ex.No.35B)

3.7 TELECARD

Telephone cards are meant for insertion into public telephone booth, in place of coins. These cards carry different multicolour pictures from insects to aeroplanes. As these cards have no connection with carrying mail, they do not have a place in thematic philately. (Ex.No.36)

4. QUALITY OF MATERIALS

We can divide this chapter into 2 parts

4.1 THE TECHNICAL QUALITY

Undamaged : One of the first things which we ever learned about stamps was that they had to be undamaged, no pieces missing, no missing perforations (not even pinholes, though perfins are alright) no creases or cracks and no thin spots.

around the whole design of the stamp. Avoid badly centered stamps. However, corresponding requirements apply to the remaining elements too. An item of postal stationery ought to be absolutely undamaged.

4.2 THE PHILATELIC QUALITY

values even if (in some cases) they are sold from the post office counter (Ex.No.37). There is no list of such items but World Catalogue and experience of a collector will teach to recognise such materials.

5 PHILATELIC STUDIES

The Regulations mention only as the last point. "Sound philatelic study in cases where it is consistent with the plan" And on this point let us first quote the detailed Guidelines verbatim. In most themes there is philatelic material that, without great thematic differentiation, presents a large number of very important philatelic varieties. If this material at the same time, illustrates a very important point of the theme then some deeper philatelic studies are allowed so that this valuable and extraordinary material can be properly shown.

6 SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF MATERIAL

In some cases, the connection with the theme is not evident from the item itself, but the collector has at his disposal supplementary information which must be stated from which the link with the theme becomes clear. That is regarded as philatelic knowledge. For example, a set of 4 stamps was issued by Singapore to commemorate 'London 1980'. The 10cent stamp shows a Map of Singapore of 1843. That part of the Map shows the flag staff used by Sir Stanford Raffles, founder of Singapore, for planting British Flag. That particular portion of Map is hidden by the design of the stamp but the literature forms the basis for which it has been included in a FLAG collection. (Ex.No.38)

7 KNOWING ABOUT AND ACQUIRING DIFFERENT MATERIALS

Before going on the hunt for material, it is important to have some idea of what material actually exist for our theme. For many themes there are checklists, catalogues, or books as far as the stamps are concerned. Once you have a proper knowledge of your theme it is worth the trouble inspite of the existence of these publications, to run through a world catalogue yourself. In that way your eye will fall on stamps which can be linked with your theme, on the basis of personally acquired knowledge but which are missing in the available and these are the things which are appreciated. All the materials cannot be acquired from one source at one time but one should try from dealers, auctions, specialised societies, Philatelic club and private contacts/friends. The process will take years and years.

Searching for suitable items is also a pleasure for a thematic philatelist. Details of all the points will require a big book to illustrate.

Note : The illustrations, are not in their actual sizes.



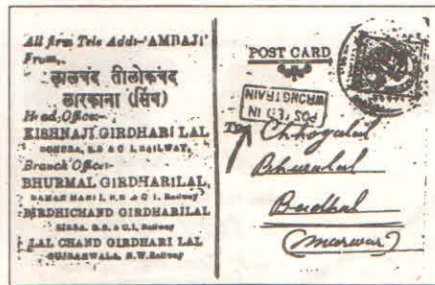
Ex.No.13 Para 2.6 - MILITARY POST CARDS



(Ex.No.14) 2.8



Ex.No.15 Para 2.9.1



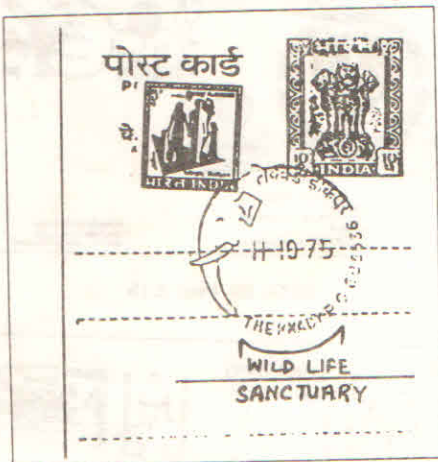
Ex.No.16 Para 2.9.2 - POSTMARK WITH POSTAL INFORMATION.



Ex.No.17 Para 2.9.3



Ex.No.21 Para 2.11



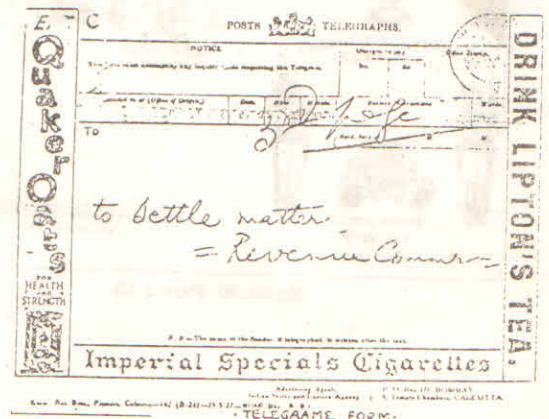
Ex.No.18 Para 2.9.3 - WILD LIFE SANCTUARY



Ex.No.22 Para 2.12



Ex.No.21 Para 2.11



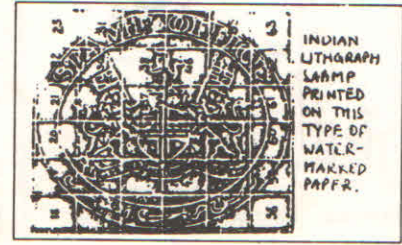
Ex.No.23 Para 2.12- VERY GOOD FOR TEA-TO BACKO-HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE ETC.

If passed by a member of His Majesty's Forces, it should be franked here by the Officer Commanding or some other responsible officer of the unit. The rank and designation of the officer should be given.



1. The airmail service is available in the United Kingdom, Eire, Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, Tonga and New Hebrides.
2. Nothing should be written on this side of the paper. The whole of the message should be written on the face of the form.
3. The name and address to which the message is to be sent should be written in English in large block letters measuring at least a quarter of an inch in height and wholly within the space provided.

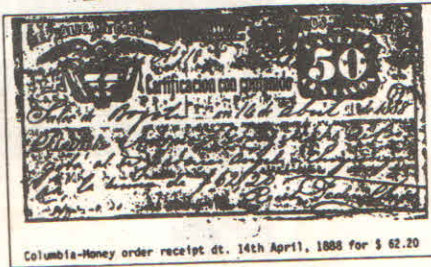
THIS IS PART OF ONE SIDE, BACK SIDE IS FOR MESSAGE.



Ex.No.25 Para 2.14

add

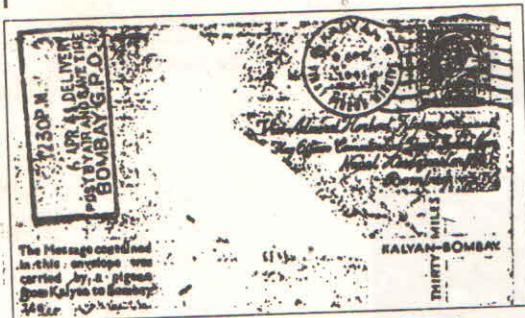
Ex.No.24 Para 2.13-AIRGRAPH.



Ex.No.26 Para 2.16



Ex.No.27 Para 2.16



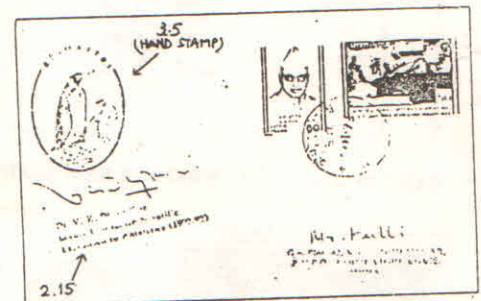
Ex.No.28 Para 2.15-PIGEON POST



Ex.No.29 Para 2.15



Ex.No.30 Para 2.15



Ex.No.31 Para 2.15

The astronauts look with them a die of this stamp and on landing, the impression was taken on the paper creating 1st stamp on moon. The die on return was used to produce printing plate and subsequently stamps were released in Sept'69. The Astronauts also took an envelop franked with the proof of stamp and a postmark inscribed "Moon Landing U.S.A. July 20, 1969." The same cancellation was used to create Moon Landing Cover. Accordingly, this cover is showing 2 cancellations as detailed above.



Ex.No.32 Para 2.15-MOON COVER

Philatelic Knowledge in Thematic Philately

(Ex.No.2)



Ex.No.3 Para 2.3.2 - STAMP ON COVER (CENSORED).

(Ex.No.1)



Ex.No.1, Para 2.1-ESSAY



Ex.No.4 Para 2.3.2 - DUE TO SHORTAGE OF PAPER, STAMPS OF LATVIA WERE PRINTED ON THE BACK OF GERMAN WAR MAP AT RIGA.

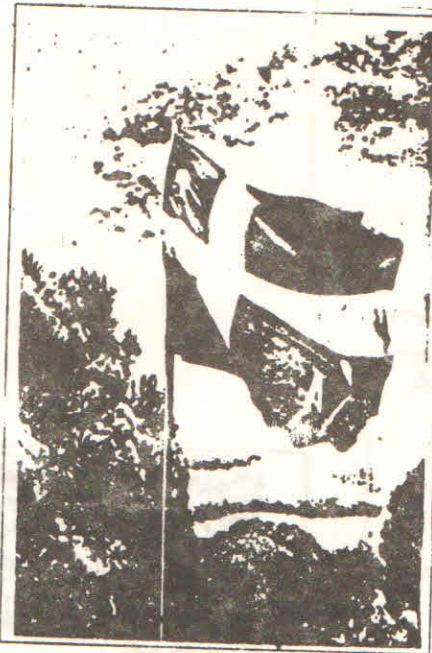
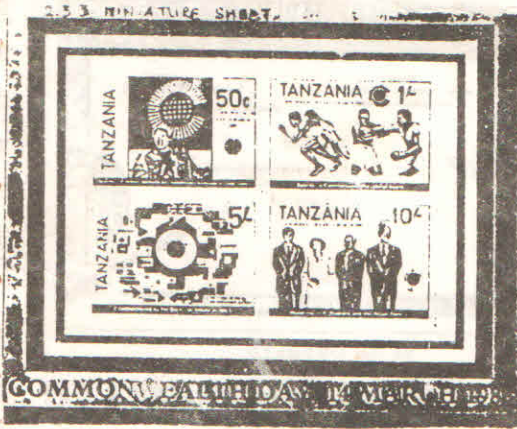


Ex.No.7 Para 2.3.3

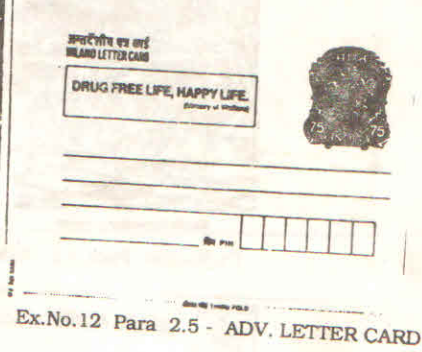


Ex.No.8 Para 2.5 - ILLUSTRATION ON ADDRESS SIDE

* Stamps in Miniature sheets and blocks.
(Ex.No.5)



Ex.No.9 Para 2.5 - BACK OF POSTAL



Ex.No.12 Para 2.5 - ADV. LETTER CARD



Ex.No.6 Para 2.3.3



Ex.No.11 Para 2.5 - COMM. AEI

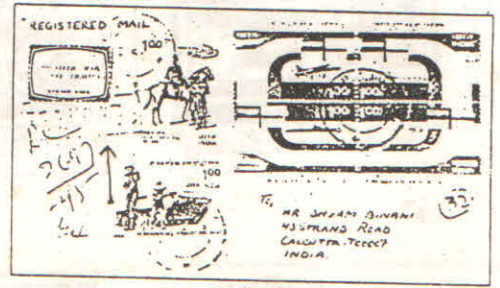


(Ex.No.10)

- * Local Post
- * Die Card
- * Army Mail



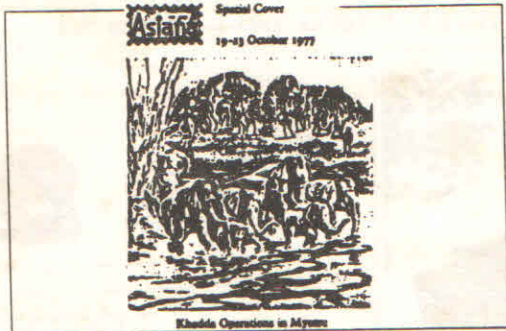
Ex.No.34 Para 2.15



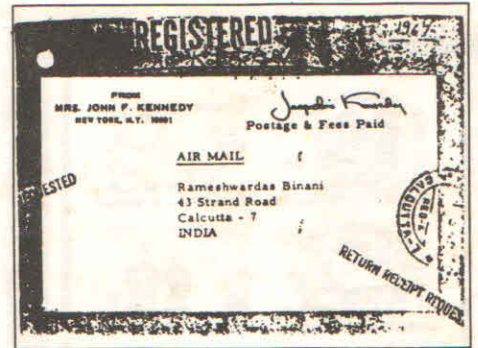
Ex.No.33 Para 2.15



Ex.No.35 Para 2.10



Ex.No.35A Para 3.3 VIGNETTE



Ex. No. 35B Para 3.6



Ex.No.37 Para 4.2-NOT VALID FOR POSTAGE Ex.No.38 Para 6-MAP OF SINGAPORE 1843



Ex.No.36 Para 3.7