



SIPA

Bulletin

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NOVEMBER - DECEMBER '96

BIMONTHLY

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1956)
(AFFILIATED TO THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA)

SIPA COMPLETES 40 YEARS

On the 30th of December, 1996 the South India Philatelists' Association completed 40 years.

The Association owes its origin to the late Sri S. Varadarajulu Chettiar, of Nellikuppam, an enthusiastic stamp collector who got together a band of Philatelists to form themselves into the South India Philatelists' Association, Madras. The beginning was moderate. There were only seven members to start with, but the number grew with the years.

The late Rev. E.S. Christodas of the Danish Mission was the first President. The first Secretary was Mr. Ananda Mohan. Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, who, we are happy to say, has continued to hold the office of Honorary Secretary of the Association, since a long time, except for a short break, was the first Treasurer. Of the original seven, Three are still in our midst, which we are pleased to note.

Among the varied activities of the Association over the years, we may mention a few.

In 1957, even though the Postal Department, was bringing out Official First Day covers for New Issues, we designed and issued covers for

- (1) the introduction of the India Map series of Decimal Definitives;
- (2) the Indian Mutiny Centenary issue.

A remarkable point, worthy of note, in regard to the Association's cover for the Decimal issue is that Mr. S.M. Doss, one of our members who designed it with a rough outline map of India, had no idea at all that the stamps to be issued would also have the India map as its design.

Five stamp exhibitions have been conducted by us so far, starting with a modest one in 1959 followed by more ambitious shows in the years 1961, 1962, 1964 and 1972.

We were advised by the late Mr. M.L. Tannan, the eminent Economist and Educationist of Bombay, and a veteran philatelist, who visited us in 1959, to hold a members' stamp show.

And so, the first show got underway at 24, Broadway, Madras, at the premises of Bhupendra Optical Stores, who kindly placed their office premises at our disposal for our monthly meetings. It was opened on 16th December 1959 by the late Mr.S.T.Srinivasagopalachariar, Advocate, and a senior philatelist of Madras, who was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. It received an enthusiastic welcome which spurred us on to plan more ambitious exhibitions.

Our plans were possible of execution thanks largely to the grand support given to us by the United States Information Services, Madras, and their co-operative staff. As a result the four stamp shows held from 1961 to 1972, were each styled "Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, Madras".

The first one was arranged in 1961, on 28th January, two days after the issue of two special stamps honouring Mahatma Gandhi by the U.S.A. The show was held at the library hall of the U.S.I.S., Mount Road, Madras, and was opened by Mr. Renzo Pagin, Director, U.S.I.S., in the immediate presence of the late Dr. P. Subbaroyan, the then Union Minister for Communication. This show lasted for nearly a month and was visited by Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, who was the U.S. Ambassador to India, along with Mrs. Ellsworth Bunker.

SIPA MEETINGS :

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

The Second Indo-American Stamp Exhibition was inaugurated on 16th August 1962 by Dr. Thomas W. Simons, U.S. Consul General in Madras, at the U.S.I.S., Library Hall. This show, which was on a grand scale with the participation of the United Nations Postal Administration, the W.H.O., and several philatelists from abroad besides our Indian friends, attracted large crowds. It was open for a fortnight.

On 13th February 1964, the birth day of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, the then Chief Minister of Madras, opened the Third Indo-American Stamp Exhibition at the same venue as the previous two shows, with Dr. Albert B. Franklin, U.S. Consul General presiding over the function. Notable participants in the exhibition included the U.S. and U.N. Postal administrations and the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, Weston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Exhibits.

The next exhibition could be held only in 1972 after a lapse of eight years and that was the Fourth Indo-American Stamp Exhibition, the last one to be held with the active support and collaboration of the U.S.I.S. Authorities in Madras. This was inaugurated by Mr. Stephen E. Palmer Jr., U.S. Consul General and the exhibition had as its venue the spacious library hall in the U.S.I.S.'s own new premises at the Gemini roundabout, on Anna Road, Madras. This exhibition lasted for seven days from the 6th to the 12th of February 1972.

Special covers were brought out by us for each of the above four Indo-American Exhibitions, and the Postal Dept., kindly provided special cachet cancellations at the exhibition venue on all the days.

We will be failing in our duty if we omitted to make here a special mention of the very important part played by the late Major V.S. Rajagapalan, who always avoided the limelight but worked ceaselessly and whole-heartedly to make each exhibition of the Association a complete success, coaxing and cajoling the U.S.I.S. officials into giving the maximum help by way of space, staff, stationery, etc., to us for conducting the exhibitions. His absence is felt keenly by all of us in this our Silver Jubilee year more than at any other time.

We published special souvenirs in connection with the second, third and fourth Indo-American Stamp Exhibitions, and they were well received.

In 1969, we joined in the All American Stamp Show put up at the American Cultural Centre, Madras by the Indo-American Association, and the American Cultural Centre, on the 17th of July, which was visited by a large number of school children.

We are one of the few stamp clubs in India, holding a meeting of our members regularly every month, whether it rained or shined. And this is one single major factor which has helped us to reach 40 years of our existence.

The meetings were originally being held on the last Sunday of the month, at the Danish Mission Hall, Broadway. After the demise of Rev. Christodas, the President, the venue was shifted to the premises of

Bhupendra Optical Stores, at 24, Broadway, Madras. From 1961, the meetings began to be held at the Association's registered office at 41, Perumal Mudali Street, Sowcarpet, Madras. In 1972, thanks to Mr. M. Janakiraman, the then Post-master General, Madras, we were allowed to hold our monthly.

Meetings at the new premises of the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, Head Post Office Madras - 600 002. This arrangement now continues with the help of the successive Postmaster Generals and his cooperative staff. We now meet on the second Sunday of the month regularly.

We also conduct meetings at 6, Nannian Street, on the third Sunday of every month to enable members to exchange their surplus stamps, cover etc., with other members.

Since July, 1980, we have started issuing a Bi-Monthly Bulletin "SIPA" on a modest scale, to satisfy a long felt need of the members. Shri M.T. Karunakaran, our present Vice-President shouldered the editorial responsibility willingly and now it has fallen on the shoulders of Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Patron and also Editor, SIPA for the past five years and it has really built up a good image of the Association projecting the activities of the Association and other Associations/Clubs spread all over the country and our Bulletin is very well received and awaited by all.

Our plans for the future include the building up of a good Library, owning of a decent habitation of its own, conducting schools of Philately for the younger stamp collectors and thus spread the wonderful and interesting hobby of Stamp Collecting, while marching ahead to new horizons, with the ever active support of all philatelists. During the coming year our Association will have its own PHILATELIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION registered - We seek the cooperation of all. Donate literature and Philatelic Magazines to SIPA and contribute willingly your mite for Building Fund

G.MadanMohandas Editor - SIPA

ECOPEX - 95 - EDITORIAL..

ECOPEX 95 is yet another stamp exhibition conducted by the South India Philatelist's Association on a special theme after the last one the 'BIOPEX - 89' which projected the subject Biology by exhibiting stamps on various themes relating to 'Animal Life and Nature'. The ECOPEX-95 will be mainly on Ecology subjects and in the following few lines we shall have an idea of the subject that is going to be covered through the stamp frames.

In the words of Khushwant Singh, "Our India is indeed one of the most beautiful countries in the world. And it has more varieties of trees, birds, animals and reptiles than any other part of the globe". The main reason for this diversity of life forms in a single country is the great diversity of eco-systems which it has supported

down the ages. Almost every major type of habitat is to be found here-from areas of the heaviest rainfall to the to the driest desert, from the coldest to the hottest climatic conditions, from the highest elevations down to sea level. It is some - total of such remarkable diversity which has made India a 'gene bank' for a number of food crops, forest trees, medicinal and aromatic plants and domesticated animals.

"But we Indians are blind to the beauty of our country. We are singularly ignorant of our rich heritage of flora and fauna. Ask an educated man to identify the flowering bhendi tree in his garden or the avenue of gulmohrs through which he walks everyday and he will reply that he is not a botanist. Our vocabulary of the commonest birds rarely exceeds a dozen. Poets who write lyric's about the papeeha do not know it when they see it nor recognize its call when they hear it. Few know that the bulbul does not sing but chirps; it has no more attachment to the rose than the nightingale which, though it does sing late into the evening, prefers to trill away during the day".

"Ignorance breeds indifference, indifference makes us turn a blind eye to the wicked destruction of our trees, animals and birds, that is taking place. People lop of branches of young trees, to feed their goat; the trees die. In the name of sport, Sikaris kill and maim millions of birds, deer, panthers and tigers. Poachers trap partridges and quails which are consumed in vast quantities by rich men and women who have more money in their fat pouches than conscience in their hearts. Most of our green forests have already gone; many species of bird and beast are almost extinct. Unless we stop this wanton despoliation of our flora and fauna immediately, we will reduce our beautiful country into a desert, wasteland of rock and sand".

There are also many other causes where man is the main culprit-the population growth and his need for more food and living place leading to occupation of more forest area for building townships and for cultivation. The forest area or the animal habitat is steadily being reduced, by chopping down millions of trees that will never be planted again. Even the plants and trees that he cultivates are sprayed with lethal pesticides, which in the long run can cause harmful side effects. The small insects, birds etc. are seriously affected. Frequent man made forest fires also affect small creatures. The industries and various types of vehicular and other engines spew gases - about 20 kgs of carbon dioxide is said to be released in the atmosphere for every 10 litres of petrol consumed. Tonnes of chemical and nuclear waste is dumped in the sea from the industries. Accidental leakage from oil-tanker ships affect sea life and the burning of oil affects high flying birds. Atomic and hydrogen bomb testings and the resultant pollution; the depletion of ozone layer resulting in temperature variation and the consequent melting of ice in Arctic and Antarctic which in the long run would increase the sea water level and submerge the land on the sea shore are all other major causes that are affecting all living beings including man. Man must understand that the earth is the only one that he has and

that it is his responsibility to keep it good for the future generation to live in.

In this respect SIPA souvenir with messages of greetings from various dignitaries and containing articles from eminent philatelists and naturalists would surely help in understanding the ecological problem that the world is facing.

M.T. Karunakaran, Vice - President, SIPA
Chairman Souvenir and Editorial Sub-Committee.

S.I.P.A. FELICITATES SHRI D.N. JAITIA, FIP PRESIDENT

FUNCTION HELD AT HOTEL ASHOKA
on 24th December, 1996

During his short visit to Chennai for Eye treatment at Shankara Netralay, our Association was fortunate enough in getting the consent of Shri D.N. Jatia, RDP, President of Federation of International Philatels to felicitate him though late. At short notice the function was held in the AIRCONDITIONED HALL OF HOTEL ASHOKA with about forty members both from our Association and from the Postal Department of TAMIL NADU CIRCLE OF POSTS with Dr. U. Srinivasaraghavan, PMG (MM) and his Director Shri Ramachandran and his departmental officers on of 24th December, 1996 evening.

Shri D.N. Jatia, his wife Ratinibai and his cousins family were welcomed by the SIPA FAMILY together with the Tamilnadu postal circle officials for a colourful felicitation function at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, 24th December, 1996.

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By Post only and / or Editor, SIPA.
Viewing the Collection at Madras by
prior arrangement,
on Madras 28/2/1997.

Shri D.N. JATIA FIRST ASIAN FIP PRESIDENT

Shri D.N. JATIA, India's eminent philatelist was elected President of the International Federation of Philately (F.I.P.) at the 59th World Congress held in London in May, 1990.

Shri Jatia is a leading philatelist of the country, well known and popular with philatelists all over the world. He is the Founder President of the Philatelic Congress of India, Post President of the Asian Philatelic Federation (F.I.A.P.) and was Vice-President of the International Federation of Philately (F.I.A.P.).

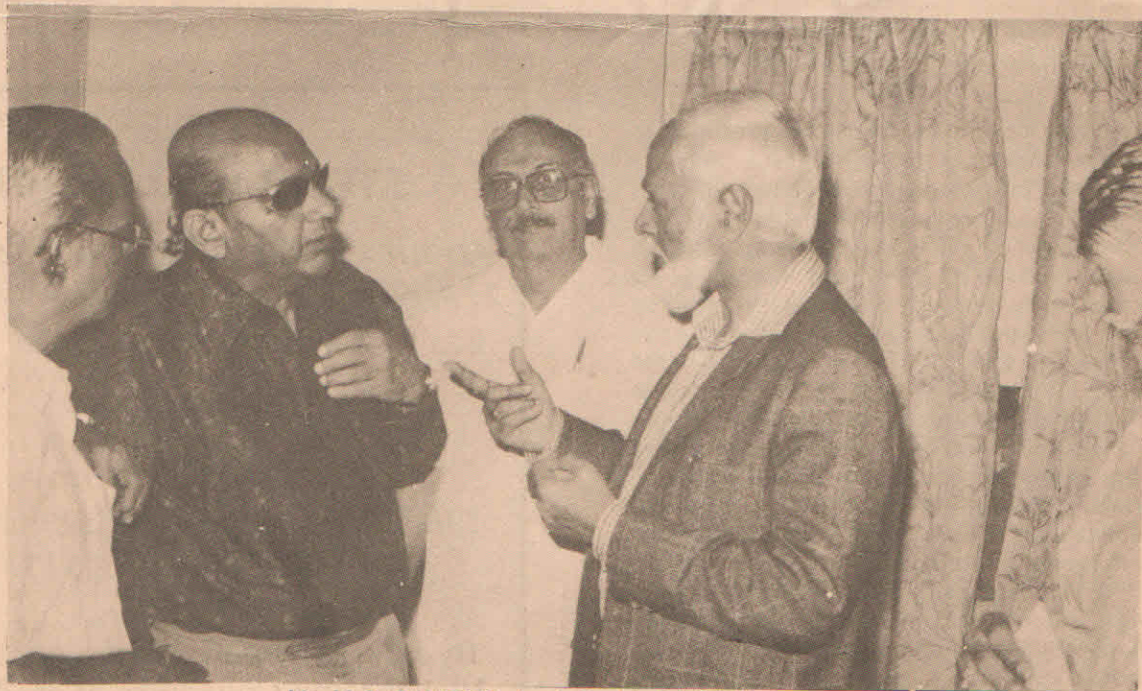
It is a great honour that he is the first President of the FIP from Asia. He joined the F.I.P. as a Director and soon rose to be its Vice President. His contribution to world philately through FIP is tremendous. He won the Grand Prix (NATIONAL) at INDIPEX - 73., the world Stamp Exhibition held in India for his collection of Indian Classics. Mr. Jata is well known for his study and collection of 1854 4 Annas lithograph stamps. He has been a distinguished Judge at National and International Exhibitions.

As the Founder President of the Philatelic Congress of India, Mr. Jatia played a very important role in its formation and laid a very solid foundation. He is the first Indian to sign the ROLL OF DISTINGUSIHED PHILATELISTS (R.D.P.), of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He has acted as a Coordinator for several

International Philatelic Exhibitions including AMERIPEX, the World Exhibition in 1986 currently, he is the Coordinator for the New Zealand 1990 World Exhibition.

Mr. Jatia has been a LIFE MEMBER of the SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION and almost all the philatelic Associations throughout the world. He it was who brought up the Rules and regulations for the conduct of the International Exhibitions and gave a disciplined course for the smooth conduct of the activities of the world Philately. He has coordinated with the UPU and the Stamp Dealers of the world and has fought tooth and nail for the prevention of undesirable issues and has been mainly responsible for the setting up EXPERT TEAM for detecting FORGERY and getting expertise advice for the FIP. Once again he had the unique honour of being REELECTED FOR A SECOND TERM as the PRESIDENT OF THE FIP at the SEOUL CONGRESS OF THE FIP. Our heartest congratulations to Mr. Jatia on brining this high honour to the country and Indian Philately. He has been appointed as the SENIOR ADVISOR for the INDEPEX'97 Exhibition to be held in New Delhi at the Pragati Maidan from 15-22 Dec.1997. We may say he has been the roving ambassodar of India in bringing International Peace and amity. May he live long in the service to Philately. We are grateful to him for having consented to have the feliciation function on 24th December, 1996.

It is said that the picture tells more than what is written. We reproduce some the snippets taken during the function.



Mr. M.S. SAYEED, An industrialist & Life Members of SIPA discusses a point with Shri D.N. Jatia seriously. He is an advanced collector of repute.



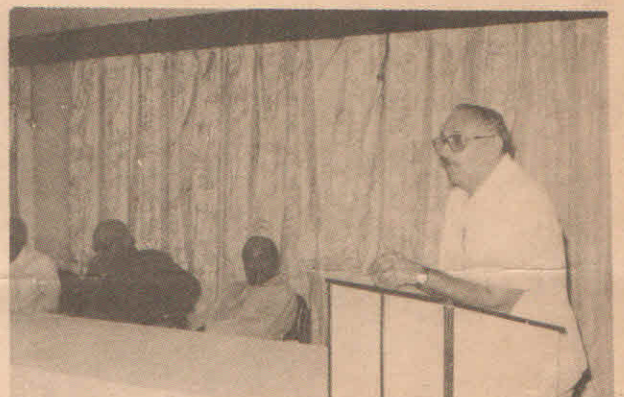
DR. U. SRINIVASARAGHAVAN, P.M.G. (MM);
Shri D.N. Jatia, FIP President and Shri S.
Brahmanandam, Chief Postmaster General,
Tamilnadu Circle (Retd)



Shri Ajeet Choradia, Vice-President, SIPA
Welcomes the Chief Guest, Shri D.N. Jatia
& others



Shri Dr. U. Srinivasa Raghavan, P.M.G.
(M.M.) felicitates the chief Guest Shri D.N. Jatia



(4) Shri D.H. Rao, Past President SIPA
felicitates.



Shri G. MADAN MOHAN DAS, PATRON, SIPA
gives a short resume of Shri D.N. Jatia



Another section of the gathering seated



The ladies taking Dinner.



Shri D.N. Jatia listens to the problems of Philately and gives his words of encouragement.



A Group gathering of Jatia's family members with SIPA Committee Members.



Shri D.N. Jatia, President FIP leisurely relishes the Dinner Menu with Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, Patron SIPA

TAIPEI'96-A REPORT

By Ajay Kumar Mittal, National Commissioner from India

TAIPEI'96, the 10th Asian Interanational Stamp Exhibiton, was held at Taipei, World Trade Centre, Taipei during October 21 and 27, 1996 under patronage of **FIAP**. This exhibition was biggest ever held in Taiwan. It coincided with the celebration of 100th anniversary of the Chinese Postal Service. The exhibition was sponsored by Directorate General of Posts of Chinese Taipei in association with Chines Taipei Philatelic Fedration and China External Trade Development Council. Mr. Ajay Kumar Mittal had visited the exhibition as National Commissioner from India. Mr. Rajendra Prashad was Assistant commissioner.

The exhibition was very well organised and was visited by a very large number of people every day. The exhibition was full of philatelic activities like Seminars on the collection of Unique items, Postal Stationary, Youth Philately, Thematic Philately, Postal History and on Roles & Responsibilities of FIP Jurors & National Commissioners by prominent philatelists from world. Seminars were attended by nearly 150 persons and many questions were asked from the speakers. Handouts were provided both in English and in Chinese. Sales at the post office counters were very high. There were about 180 dealer booths selling collectibles from around the world.

The exhibition had about 1629 frames from 20 Asian countries and territories. The competitive class consisted of 1449 frames, with some very good exhibits. The literature class had 66 entries. India was well represented with 19 entries in competitive class and two in non-competititve class.

Mr. V.S. Dastur, President PCI and Mr. Dhirubhai Mehta, Past-President PCI were members of the Jury from India. Mr. D.N. Jatia, RDP and Mr. Charles Peterson, RDP were Senior consultants to the Panal of Expert Group consisting of Mr. Charles Peterson, RDP (USA), Mr. Surajit Gongvatana (Thailand), Mr. Chan Shiv Hon (HongKong) and Mr. Raymond Todd (Australia). Several cases were referred to the Expert Committee by the Jury and as many as 25 sheets were removed by the Expert Cqmmitee from the frames for scrutiny in the presence of the concerned Commissioners. After scrutiny, some cases were cleared

without doubt, for quite a few cases the exhibitors have been advised to get a certificate before display next time (however, no penalty was awarded in judgement) and in one case, the material was judged as forged. One exhibit from India was also scrutinised and the material was found to be O.K. Many speical prizes were donated by vaiuous philatelic organistions. Philatelic Congress of India also donated a special trophy (an Elephant made of sandal wood).

Grand Prix Interantional was awarded to Mr. Geoffrey Lewis of Australia for his exhibit, "Philippines 1775-1978, Mail Routes and other Postal History." Mr. D.N. Jatia presented Grand Prix to the winner. The trophy donated by PCI was awarded as special prize to Mr. David J. Smith of Australia for his exhibit, "Jamaica Postal Stationary, 1877-1968".

RAMESHWARDAS BINANI CALCUTTA, REPORTS:-

A Speical Cover was released by Lions Club of Calcutta Megacity on Street Children on the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November, 1996. It was released by Mr. D.N. Jatia. President, Federation International de Philatelie in the presence of Lion Gopal Agarwal, District Goveror : Lions Clubs International. District 322-B. Mr. Rameshwar Das Binami, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Bagri and Officials from Calcutta G.P.O. The programme was organised to create awareness about the conditions of millions of Street Children. Hadicapped Children were present after enjoying a joy ride in CTC Trams which was arranged by Lions Clubs International. District 322-B. The Programme was decently and successfully organised by Lion Ramesh Dalmia and Lion Santosh Kumar Lahoti.

*We wish all our
Philatelic friends
A
Philatelically
Prosperous New Year
with Best of everything Health,
Wealth, Happiness.*

PROVISIONAL POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUES

by : A.G. Shirolkar

An attempt has been made to bring to light the provisional issues brought out by Postal Circles in India. As we are all aware, when the postal rates were increased from 20 paise to 25 paise, the postal authorities fell short of envelopes and it was decided to utilise the existing stocks of Express Delivery envelopes for the purpose.

All the Surcharges and the obliterating lines of the various Circles are in Black with the exception of the Delhi Circle which is in Blue.

Gujarat Circle

The provisional issues from Gujarat are of three types on Express Delivery envelopes. This is illustrated in Figures 1, 2 & 3. The First Printing (Figure 1), is on Express Delivery envelope of 28 nP (15nP - 13nP) denomination of size 120x97 mm. The Second Printing (Figure 2) is on an Express Delivery envelope of 40P (20P-20P) denomination of size 141 x 92 mm. In the Third Printing, the letter of Surcharge 'Twenty Five Paise', are **thicker** than in the First and Second Printing. The details of all the three types of Surcharges etc. are given below :

Description	1st Printing	2nd Printing	3rd Printing
Length of Surcharge	mm	mm	mm
Twenty Five Paise	33mm	33mm	33mm
Figure 25	3.5mm	3.5mm	3.5mm
Distance between both lines of Surcharge	2mm	2mm	2mm
Height of Surcharge Capital Letters	3mm	3mm	2mm (T) 2.5mm (F&P)
Small Letters	2mm	2mm	2mm
Figure 25	2.5mm	3mm	3mm
Distance between both Obliterating lines	2mm	3mm	3.5mm
Horizontal distance between 'Twenty Five Paise' & the obliterating lines	38.5mm	38.5mm	55.5 mm
Distance from the base of 'Twenty Five Paise', to the base of obliterating lines	1.5mm	5mm	2mm

It will also be observed in the Third Printing, that the letter 'l' in Paise appears as 1 and as such reads 'Palsa' instead of 'Paise'.

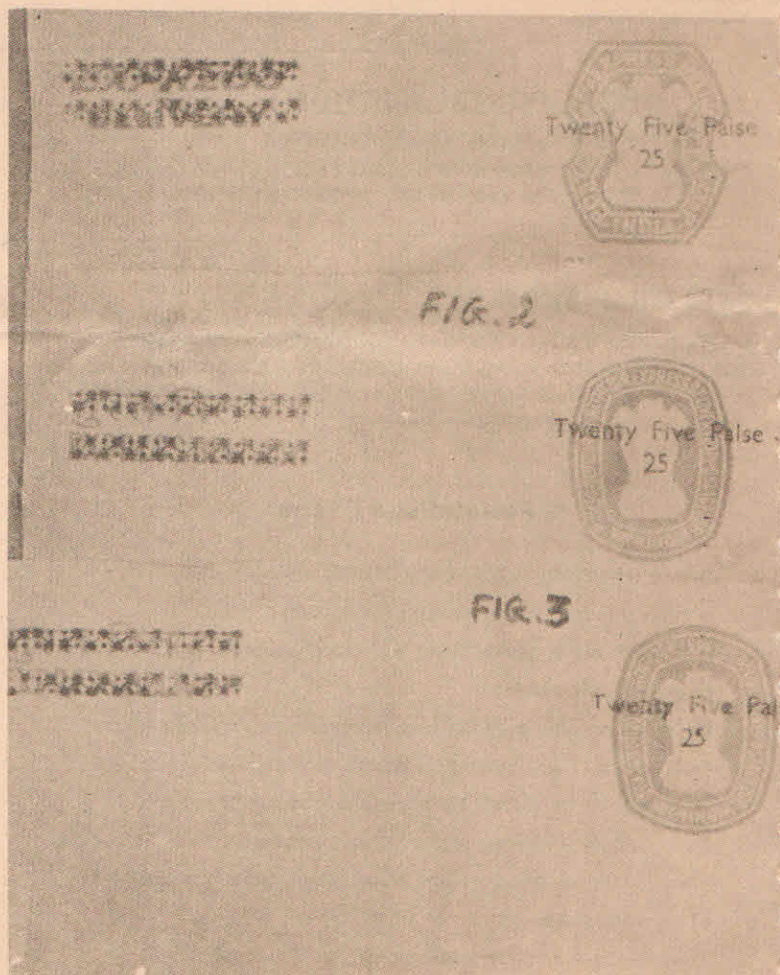
On all the three printings, the obliteration of the words "Express Devlivery" (both in Hindi and English) are done in dots and stars.

Delhi Circle

The printing of the Delhi Circle, is of two types (Figure 4 & 5), and both are on 28 nP (15 nP - 13 np) Express Delivery Envelopes of Size 120 x 97 mm. The main difference between both the types is in the number of obliterating lines or bars. The First Type has two lines & the Second Type has three lines. The details are given below :

Madras Circle

The printing of the Madras Circle is of two types. The First Type (Figure 6) is on an Express Delivery Envelope of size 121 x 97 mm and the Second Type (Figure 7) is on an Express Delivery envelope of 40P denomination and of size 141 x 92 mm. The thickness of the surcharged letters in the Second Type is thicker than the First Type. The details are given below :

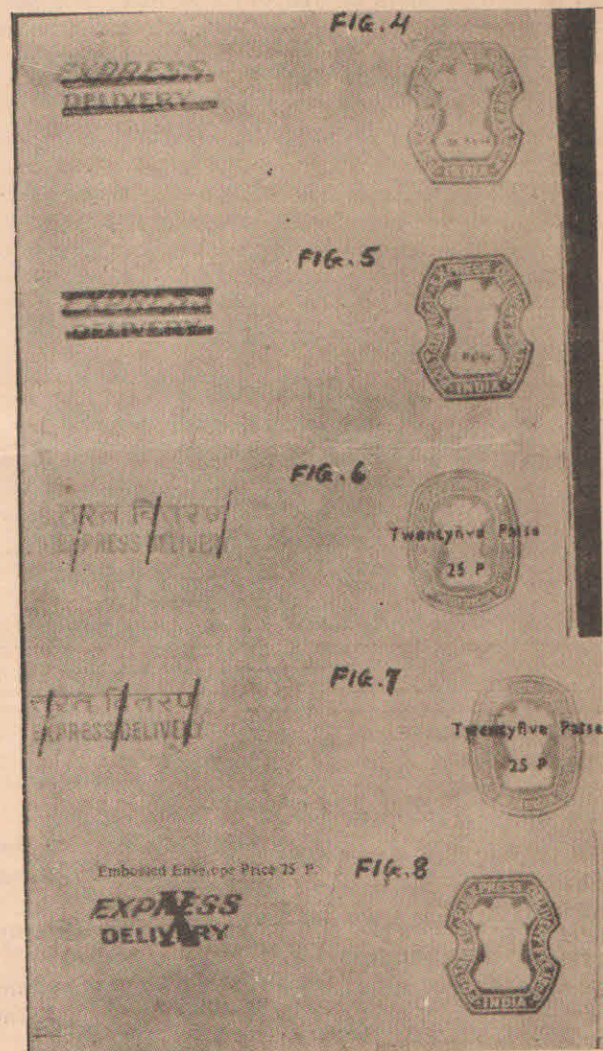


Description	First Type (Figure 4)	Second Type (Figure 5)
Length of Surcharge	9.5 m	9.5 mm
Height of Surcharge		
Capital Letters	1.0 m	1.5 mm
Small Letters	0.5 m	1.0 mm
Fig.25	1.0 m	1.5 mm
Length of Obliterating Lines		
First Line	34 m	34 mm
Second Line	35 m	33 mm
Third Line	-	33 mm
Thickness of Obliterating Lines		
First Line	1.5 mm	2.0 mm
Second Line	2.0 mm	1.5 mm
Third Line	-	2.0 mm
Distance between Obliterating Lines		
First & Second Line	4.5 mm	2.0 mm
Second & Thrid Line	-	3.0 mm
Distance between base of "25 Paise" & the base of obliterating lines	7.0 m	9.5 mm
Horizontal Distance between "25 Paise" & the obliterating lines	51 mm	52 mm
Length of Surcharge	Fig.6	Fig.7
Twenty Five Paise	33.5 mm	34.0 mm
Figure 25P	9m	8 mm
Distance between both lines of surcharge	5 mm	5 mm
Height of Surcharge		
Capital Letters	3 mm	3 mm
Small Letters	2 mm	2 mm
Figure 25P	3 mm	3 mm
Vertical Obliterating Lines		
Length	16 mm	16 mm
Distance between First & Second Line	15.5 mm	15.0 mm
Distance between Second & Third Line	15.0 mm	14.5 mm

U.P. Circle

This printing is entirely different from all the printings of the various Circles. There are no obliterating lines (vertical or horizontal) but the alphabet "X" is printed in black over Express Delivery (Figure 8) on the left side corner. The words 'Embossed Envelope Price 25P' are printed in black above the "X" obliteration. The Express Delivery Envelope is of 28nP denomination and of size 120 x 97 mm. The details are given below :

Description	Dimension
Length of Surcharge	49 mm
Height of Surcharge	
Capital Letters	2.0 mm
Small Letters	1.5 mm
Figure 25P	2.0 mm
Distance between 'Embossed Envelope Price 25P' & obliterator "X"	3.5 mm
Height of obliterator "X"	13 mm
Width of obliterator	9 mm



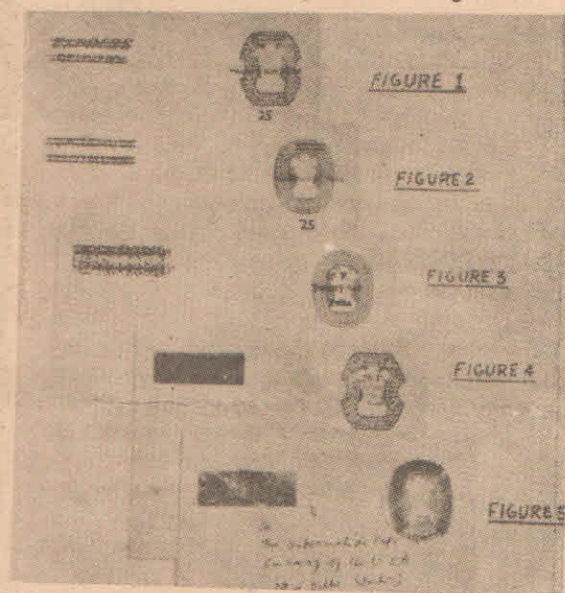
- (1) Bombay (2) Karnataka
 (3) Haryana (4) Andhra Pradesh

The surcharges and the obliterating lines of the circles are of the following colours:

- (1) BOMBAY CIRCLE - Blue.
 (2) KARNATAKA CIRCLE - Black
 (3) HARYANA CIRCLE - Crimson.
 (4) ANDHRA CIRCLE - Red.

(1) **BOMBAY CIRCLE**

The provisional issues from Bombay are of two types on Express Delivery envelopes. This is illustrated in Figure 1 and Figure-2. The first type (Figure 1), is on Express Delivery envelope of 28 nP.(15nP ; 13 nP) denomination of size 120 x 97 mm. The second type (Fig.2) is on an Express Delivery envelope of 40 p. (20 P % 20 P) denomination of size 141 x 92 mm. The details of all the two types of surcharges etc. are given below :



Description :	First type	Second Type
(A)Overprinting over Ashokan Embelm Embossed Portion		
(1) Length of Surcharge		
Twenty five - paise	31 mm	30 mm
Figure 25	6 mm	6 mm
Distance between both lines of surcharge	15.5 mm	17 mm
(ii) Height of Surcharge		
Capital Letters	2 mm	2 mm
Figure 25	4 mm	4 mm
(iii) Obliterating lines		
Length of Obliterating Lines (2 Nos)	12 mm	12 mm
Thickness of obliterating lines	0.5 mm	1.0 mm
Distance between obliterating lines	1.25 mm	1.25 mm

(iv) Distance from bottom of obliterating line to top of "Twenty-five paise"	13 mm	11.5 mm
(B) Overprinting over Express Delivery Portion		
(i) Length of obliterating lines (4 nos.)	33.5 mm	37.5 mm
(ii) Thickness of obliterating lines	0.5 mm	1.0 mm
(iii) Distance between First & Second obliterating lines	1.25 mm	1.25 mm
(iv) Distance between 2nd & 3rd obliterating lines	4 mm	4.5 mm
(v) Distance between 3rd & 4th obliterating lines	1.25 mm	1.2 mm
(vi) Horizontal distance between obliterating line on the left and the letter "T" of "Twenty on the right."	43 mm	59 mm
(vii) Vertical distance between bottom of 4th obliterating line on left and the bottom of figure "25" on the right.	23 mm	27 mm

(ii) **KARNATAKA CIRCLE**

The Karnataka circle printing (Figure 3) is done on Express Delivery envelope of 40 P. (20 P ; 20 P) denomination and of size 141 x 92 mm. The details of surcharges etc. are as follows :

Description	Dimension
Length of Surcharge	
Twenty Five	21 mm
25 P	10 mm
Paise	9 mm
Height of Surcharge	
Capital letters	2 mm
Small letters	2 mm
25	3 mm
Distance between bottom of 25 P. and top of "Twenty-five"	2 mm
Distance between bottom of "Twenty five" and top of "Paise"	2 mm
Horizontal Distance from thatched block over Express Delivery on the left to "T" of "Twenty" on the right	62.25 mm
Vertical distance from bottom thatched block over Express Delivery on left to bottom of "Paise" on the right	12 mm

Length of thatched block on the right over Express Delivery	38 mm
Width of thatched block	12 mm
Distance between thatched line	1.5 mm
Number of thatched lines	24 mm

(iii) HARYANA CIRCLE

The Haryana Circle printing (Fig.4) is done on Express Delivery envelope 28 nP. (15 nP ; 13 nP) of size 120 x 97 mm. The details of the surcharges etc. are as follows :

Description	Dimension
Length of Surcharge	
Twenty	10 mm
Five	6 mm
Paise	7 mm
25 P.	8.5 mm
Height of Surcharge	
Capital letters	2 mm
Small letters	1 mm
25 P	3 mm
Distance between bottom of "25 P" to top of "Twenty"	1.5 mm
Distance between bottom of "Twenty" and top of "Five"	1.0 mm
Distance between bottom of "Five" to top of "Paise"	1.0 mm
Length of Coloured block (Crimson) over "Express Delivery" on the right	38 mm
Width of coloured block	13.5 mm
Horizontal distance from coloured block to "T" of Twenty	49 mm
'Vertical distance from bottom of coloured block to bottom of "Paise"	8 mm

(IV) ANDHRA PRADESH CIRCLE

The Andhra Pradesh Circle printing is entirely different from others. The printing (Fig.5) is done on Express Delivery Envelope of 40 P (20P +20 P) denomination and of size 120 x 97 mm. The entire embossed portion has been obliterated except the ashokan emblem, and India (in English and Hindi). The figure 25 is surcharged over India and is of following dimensions:

Height of Figure "25" = 3 mm
Length of Figure "25" = 6 mm

There are many variations available to the above surcharge like double printing, obliterating lines being inclined and so on. An effort has been made here to elucidate the normal printings which have been done in the various circles.

Any other information on the above subject from fellow philatelists is very much welcome and they may write to the Editor, SIPA

12.11.96



STAMP NEWS
SALIM ALI



Printed 0.4 Million

800P



Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali was a vertebrate ornithologist, explorer, ecologist, teacher & a writer on 12th November, 1896, Salim Ali took up ornithology at a time when the subject in India was little more than an Englishman's pastime. Salim Ali made it a serious pursuit. In 1930 he went to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) with a proposal. Indian birds had not been studied systematically, so would the Society send him on ornithological Surveys? He didn't want a salary, but the expenses. Thus for next 20 years Salim Ali roamed the subcontinent, studying birds from Kutch to Sikkim, from Afghanistan to Kerala. His methods were so unique that he wove history, ecology and geography into his descriptions of a bird and its habitat.

In 1941 Salim Ali published 'The Book of Birds'. It was an instant success. During this period he formed a deep and abiding friendship with S. Dillon Ripley, a young zoologist with the US National Academy of Sciences, Ceylon. Pooling their vast knowledge, the two men later published the ten-volume Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan.

He was an active conservationist (as he was also an ornithologist.) His role in setting up of the Bharatpur and Karnal bird sanctuaries, the decision not to destroy Keoladeo National Park for the sake of a power project, the establishment of the Keoladeo National Park are eloquent testimony to his concern for environment.

Recognition came late for Dr. Salim Ali, but it came abundantly. The Asiatic Society's Gold Medal for Research in Asiatic Zoology, the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan in 1976 from the Govt. of India, the Sunderlal Hora Memorial Prize of the Indian National Science Academy, the Honorary degree of D.Sc. from the Universities of Delhi, Andhra and Aligarh, the Union Medal of the British Ornithologists Union, the Paul Centenary Memorial, Medal of the USSR Academy of Medical Science, the Order of the Golden Arrow, the C.V.Raman Medal of the Indian National Science Academy, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh Gold Medal, National Research Professorship in Ornithology from the Govt. of India, and the Paul Getty International Wildlife Conservation Award.

The BNHS was his family and to it he left his assets accruing from his publications. Nothing could dampen Salim Ali's spirit, not even old age. Until his death, he conducted major expeditions, and in 1984 he spent four weeks in the remote and difficult Namdapha National Park, near the Burmese border. Two years later he was set to go to the Himalayas in search of mountain quails last seen in 1858. But he suddenly fell ill. He was unable to finish one more book, 'The Fall of a Sparrow', a delightful autobiography.

The Department of Post is happy to issue two stamps to commemorate Salim Ali's birth Centenary on 12th November - December

India's first Prime Minister Pt. JawaharLalNehru said, "The building up of a nation depends on building men and women and the process of building men and women depends very considerably on what is done to its children. It is, therefore, of high importance that we pay attention to the well-being and growth of children. "It is appropriate that his birthday 14th November is observed in India, as Children's Day.

It reminds us of our social and moral responsibility towards the needs and right of Children.

India's commitment to the care of children and the Independence is enshrined in our constitutional provision. A planned approach to child welfare began with the formulation of First Five Year Plan and developed into the National Policy for Children in 1974, which lays down the guiding principles for child welfare. The programme has grown manifold since 1975 and now it has been universalised to cover all rural areas and 310 major urban areas extending integrated package of services, which include, supplementary nutrition, pre school education, immunization, health checkup, referral services and health and health education, water and environmental sanitation to 175.9 lakhs children (0-6 years) and 36.8 lakhs pregnant and nursing mothers at Anganwadi Centres (AWC).

Anganwadi Centre serves as the first stage in the process of education and prepares children for going to schools. The stamp issued this year is based on a drawing done by an anganwadi child.

UNICEF has been actively cooperating with India in providing a better environment for the child. India-Unicef partnership in the service of children is now five decades old. Today, India is Unicef's largest Country Programme. The size of the child population and the growth rate are the main factors determining both the size of the child population and the growth rate.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a special postage stamp in celebration of Children's Day.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in collaboration with the National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS) is organising the Second International Crop Science Congress at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from 17th to 22nd November, 1996. In this Congress 1500 crop Scientists from over 100 countries will come together to discuss future strategies of crop research for building a stable food security system based on sustainable agriculture.



The holding of this Second International Crop Science Congress has special significance for India as it is being held at a time when several new challenges confront crop scientists. Increasing population and enhanced purchasing power will necessitate keeping a high rate of growth in food production. For safeguarding food security, crop intensification and diversification will be needed and will have to be achieved on an ecologically sustainable basis. New tools of molecular biology open up fresh opportunities for bringing about new changes in plants.

The central theme of the Congress appropriately is "Crop Productivity and Sustainability-Shaping the Future". The mural design of the stamp very beautifully depicts this theme. The rectangular green boundary represents productivity. The red circle signifies sun. Solar energy in conjunction with green chlorophyll comprises the primary plant production system. The wheat grains on top represent bountiful food production. The test tube plant in the centre and an outlooping DNA thread represent the promise held by the new technologies of Genetic Engineering and Plant Tissue Culture for developing new plants with greater productivity potential for future.

The Department of Post is happy to bring out a stamp on the "2nd International Crop Science Congress to demonstrate India's commitment to agricultural research and appreciation for contribution made by our agriculturalscientists. This stamp is also a tribute to the countless numbers of agriculturalscientists in India's villages, and their contribution to the "Grow more food" programme of the Government.

SAARC - 10TH ANNIVERSARY

8.12.1996

Printed 0.7 Million

1100 P



The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) comprises of seven countries of this region namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. On 8th December, 1996, SAARC completes ten years of its existence.

The primary objectives of SAARC are to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia, to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region. In pursuit of its primary objectives, SAARC launched the Integrated Programme of Action through the mechanism of eleven Technical Committees dealing with various fields that are central to the SAARC process of cooperation Agriculture, Communications, Education, Culture and Sports, Environment and Meteorology, Health, Population Activities and Child Welfare, Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse, Rural Development, Science and Technology, Tourism, Transport, and Women in Development.

SAARC has taken major initiatives for poverty eradication in South Asia, preferably by the year 2002 through an agenda of action which include strategies for social mobilisation, policies of decentralised agricultural development and small-scale labour intensive industrialisation, and human development. Initiatives have also been taken in specific areas of common concern, notably dealing with children, women in development, disabled persons, youth and environment. The decade 1991-2000 A.D. has been designated as the "SAARC Decade of the Girl Child", and the current year, 1996 has further been designated as the "SAARC Year of Literacy."

Four Regional Conventions/Agreements notably on food security, narcotics drugs control, and preferential trading arrangements have been agreed upon between the countries of South Asia under the SAARC umbrella. Initiations have been taken towards removing of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade amongst countries of South Asia. SAARC has agreed that member States should strive for the realisation of the South Asian Free Trade Area (Safita) preferably by the year 2000 but before 2005 A.D. The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and industry, which is recognised as a Regional Apex Body of SAARC also plays a major role in the promotion of economic and trade exchanges between South Asian Countries.

In the last decade, SAARC has, thus, grown from its modest beginnings into a vibrant regional organisation dedicated to its primary objective—to serve the people.

The Department of Post is privileged to release a commemorative postal stamp to mark this occasion.

INDO - KAZAKH COOPERATION

ABAI KONUNBAEV

9.12.1996

Printed 1 Million

500 P



Abai Konunbaev, the great Kazakh poet, thinker and humanist was born in 1845 in the Semipalatinsk oblast of Kazakhstan. Although his real name was Ibrahim, his mother called him "Abai" (which means thoughtful).

Abai had his early education at home by a Mullah and then in a Madrasah.

Influenced by stories, folk tales and historical songs narrated to him during his childhood, Abai started composing poems at the age of twelve. However his schooling was curtailed by his father Konunbaev who wanted him to look after administration and to take over as the future leader of his clan.

Much of Abai's earlier works have not survived because much of it was not written but recited. His search for knowledge and his yearning for beauty and a better life for his people drew him close to the mysteries of oriental and classical Russian literature. Having an excellent knowledge and understanding of Kazakh folk music Abai composed several melodies for his own poems.

Abai's writings were directed against backwardness, corruption and prejudices which not only made him popular but earned him a few enemies also. An outspoken and undaunted fighter against the evils of administration, clan elders and all other authorities, Abai earned the reputation of a sage to whom people could turn for counsel.

Abai's legacy of literature in Kazakh is contained in two thick volumes which includes his verses, poems, talks with his colleagues (exhortations) and numerous translations. Abai was influenced by Tajik, Azerbaijan and Uzbek classical poetry. He also drew from Western cultures which enriched his inner world with new ideals besides enlarging his range of expression. Abai also translated the works of noted authors including Pushkin, Lermontov and Krolov. Some of his famous poems are "Summer", "Winter", "Old age is here-sad thoughts." "O! My Luckless Kazakhs", "My unfortunate kins" etc.

Abai died in 1904. The year 1995 was being celebrated as the 150th year of his birth anniversary by Kazakhstan and UNESCO. Abai is the greatest Luminary of Kazakh literature and poetry who strove to pave the way for a more enlightened life for his countrymen, and hence, has the status of a father figure among the Kazakhs. (This stamp must have been issued in 1995 (Printed) is issued in 1996 against - UPU

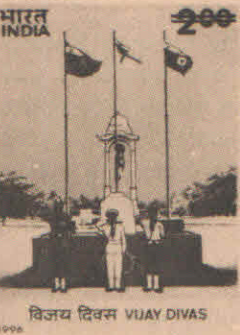
guidelines - Editor).

VIJAY DIVAS

16.12.1996

Printed 0.7 Million

200 P



The Indian Armed Forces, have a long tradition of valour and courage, in the face of overwhelming odds. Nowhere was this better demonstrated than in the heroic endeavours made by the Indian Armed Forces in the liberation of Bangladesh, in 1971.

From the moment the operations were planned it was apparent that speed was going to be the key factor in the Operation for both political and military reasons; yet it was also clear that achieving speed and mobility was going to be the most difficult. The plan succeeded due to close cooperation among the three services and the highest standards of political and military leadership, skill and boldness in execution and consummate logistical management. While the Indian Army advanced in cooperation with freedom fighters of Bangladesh and converged on to Dhaka, the IAF within 48 hrs., completely pulverised the airfields achieving complete air superiority after the Naval fleet moved to blockade the Bay of Bengal. Air Force dropping of Army personnel at Tangail and Navy guarding the Bay of Bengal was a classic example of cooperation of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The basic aim in the Western Sector was to maintain a position of offensive defence and hence did not result in a major offensive.

Operations in 1971 saw some of the greatest heroic deeds by our officers and men. As many as four Param Vir Chakras were awarded during the operations which stands testimony to the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces. On the occasion of Vijay Divas, we salute our brethren who have laid down lives in the service of the nation.

Today as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary, we salute our officers and men who maintain eternal vigil along the vast international borders encompassing some of the most inhospitable terrains in the world to preserve the integrity of our country.

The Department of Post is privileged to release a special commemorative stamp on this occasion.

VIVEKANANDA ROCK MEMORIAL KANYAKUAMRI

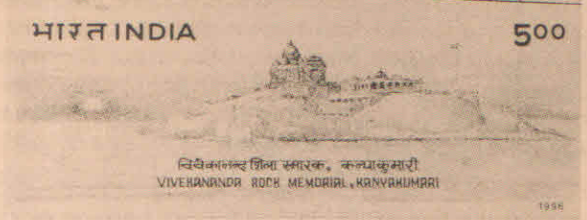
26.12.1996

Printed 1 Million

500 P

भारत INDIA

500



The Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari is one of the most glorious national monuments of our country. It symbolises the spirit of India, unique and magnificent, a confluence of cultures, religions and societies. It also epitomizes the awakening of a mind, a spirit and a nation. It is a tribute to a visionary who saw that :

"India will be raised, not with the power of the flesh, but with the power of the spirit,... One vision I see clear as life before me, that the ancient Mother has awakened once more, sitting on her throne rejuvenated, more glorious than ever. Proclaim her to all the world with the voice of peace and benediction".

Swami Vivekananda had swan across the channel of about 450 yards to meditate on this rock. Here, surrounded by the oceans, their vastness, their silence and their sounds, his troubled heart, saw the mission of his life before him, the awakening of the Indian masses and the emerging significance of India in the world community. Sri Eknath Ranade gave shape to this embodiment of India's progressive spirit as a singular tribute to Swami Vivekananda. At Kanyakumari, the Monk was transformed into a nation builder who carried the message of India's spiritual consciousness across the world with the historic address at the Parliament of Religions at Chicago on 11.9.1893.

Rising out of the ocean today the Memorial stands at the southern tip of India in memory of this great Indian and his vision. Built by the Vivekananda Rock Memorial Committee, the work on this monument started on 6.11.64 and took about six years to complete. It was consecrated on 2.9.70 by Srimad Swami Visveswarananda, President of the Ramakrishna Math & Mission and inaugurated the same day by the then President of India, Shri. V.V. Giri. Financial assistance from the Central Government and from every State and from individuals across the country set up this remarkable Memorial.

The Memorial consists of two Mandapams, facing each other : the Viveknanda Mandapam and the Sripada Mandapam. The former has a Meditation Hall and an Assembly Hall dominated by an imposing statue of Swami Vivekananda. The later houses the sanctum sanctorum built over the "Sripadam", the footprint of Kanyakumari, to protect it from weathering. The entire structure is enclosed by the delicate tracery of the Pradaskshina Patha (circular path).

The Memorial is not merely a building of stone and mortar, but a throbbing living tribute which continues to provide a dynamic thrust to the Vivekananda Kendra . This organisation has translated Swamiji's message of "Service to Humanity is true worship of God" into action. Today, a Lay order of dedicated and trained life workers, both men and women have been deployed all over the country. They specially serve the poor in the economically backward areas, spreading education, rural development, utilisation of natural resource, health awareness and propogating yoga as a way of life.

The Department of Post today, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, issues a commemorative postage stamp on the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Kanyakumari as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. The stamp depicts the Memorial; the first day cover is a view of the Sabha Mandapam and the cancellation is a line drawing of the Sripada Mandapam.

Printer - Calcutta Security Printers Calcutta

150 YEARS OF ANESTHESIA

27--12-1996

Printed 0.7 Million

500 P



Anaesthesiology is an important speicality of medical science. Prior to the discovery of Anaesthesia all surgical operations were associated with severe pain. Very often the patient used to die, not because of the disease but because of the shock due to severe pain of surgery.

Many complicated surgical operations like open heart surgery, neurosurgery and organ transplant surgery would not have become possible without developments and advances in the science of anaesthesia.

On 16th October, 1846, William Thomas Green Morton, a dentist from Boston administered ether to one Gilbert Abbott at the Massachusetts General Hospital while the surgeon John Collins Warren removed a tumor from the patient's jaw, without pain. That day was an important landmark in the history of medical science. Thereafter, surgeons could perform surgical operations while the patient was fast asleep unaware of the entire procedure and feeling absolutely no pain.

Very soon chloroform replaced ether. However, it was realized that chloroform was harmful to the heart and liver and could cause death during anaesthesia.

To investigate the safety of chloroform anaesthesia, Nizam of Hyderabad invited two commissions from England in 1888 and 1889. These are considered as important landmarks in the history of development of anaesthesia.

Ultimately, chloroform was withdrawn as an anaesthetic agent. However, so popular was chloroform as an anaesthetic agent that even today many people think that anaesthesia is induced by chloroform.

The Department of Post is happy to issue a stamp to commemorate 150 years of anaesthesia, and its service to humanity by way of introducing painless surgery.

The Philatelic Society of India

Est. 6th March 1897

The Philatelic Society of India popularly known as P.S.I. was established in the year 1887. It has a proud record of service to the cause of Indian philately for 99 years and has grown stronger every day. It is one of the oldest Philatelic Societies in the world and probably the oldest in Asia.

It has various activities in the field of Philately. It publishes **The Philatelic Journal of India**, devoted to philately for 99 years. The Society holds regular fortnightly meetings at the GPO Mumbai.

The Society will be celebrating its centenary in 1997. As part of its celebration, it is holding a National Philatelic Exhibition - **Centipex-97**, with the support of the Postal Authorities and the patronage of the Philatelic Congress of India.

The Society has had distinguished Philatelists as its office bearers, and four Presidents of India have been its patrons. The Society is one of the founder members of the Philatelic Congress of India, the apex body, and has always supported its various activities by participation of its members in different capacities.

The Society has published over thirty publications which have been acknowledged as standard works of reference. Most of the research work in India Lithograph and the Indian States, both Convention and Feudatory, was published by members of the Society. While exhibitions were held by the Society way back in Calcutta in the last century, an International Exhibition **DIJUPEX-57** was organised to mark its Diamond Jubilee. **PLAJUPEX-72** (for its Platinum Jubilee), **NAPEX** (a National Exhibition) and **PHILEX-83** (a competitive Exhibition for members) were also held. Souvenirs containing articles of interest have also been published on these occasions.

The Society's journal, **The Philatelic Journal of India** has published many research articles by distinguished students of India Philately. The Journal has also been honoured on a postage stamp issued in 1989, along with other early Philatelic magazines, as a tribute to their contribution for promotion of philately through literature.

The Society and its Journal continued to do good work., its Members participated in various world, International, National and State Level Exhibitions, and earned high awards. The Society held a non-competitive Exhibition on a modest scale restricted to its members called "PHILEX-96" in March 1996, as a precursor to the much larger Exhibition which it proposes to hold in March 1997 to celebrate its Centenary in a befitting manner.

B.B. Paymaster ICS Retd. President

CENTIPEX - 97 - NATIONAL

APPLY FOR PROSPECTS & ENTRY FORMS TO
THE SECRETARY CENTIPEX - 97
EXHIBITION G.P.O. BOX NO.145, MUMBAI - 400 001

LATE DAY FOR ENTRY CLOSING IS 25 - 1 1997

**REPORT OF MR. G.B. PAI, COMMISSIONER GENERAL
INDEPEX 97**

I have the privilege of presenting the up to date Report on the progress made relating to the International Exhibition Indepex 1997 proposed to be held between 15th-22nd December, 1997. The proposal for an International Stamp Exhibition to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Indian Independence was mooted in 1995 by the Philatelic Congress of India to the Department of Posts; and the proposal was finally accepted by the Department of Posts in 1996.

In view of shortage of time there was some difficulty in securing the necessary space at the only possible avenue for such an Exhibition namely, Trade Fair Authority Exhibition Grounds at Pragati Maidan. At the suggestion of our President, I met Mr. P. Chidambaram, the then Minister of Commerce and there after with the good offices of the Vice President of India adequate space was made available for the Exhibition. I am happy to say that my efforts were successful. The Exhibition has been now allotted adequate space not only for the display of exhibits but also for Dealers Booths and other necessary apurtenances like rooms for Jury and Commissioners, auditorium and space for services such as restaurant and other facilities.

At the outset, I must record my appreciation of the co-operation and enthusiasm shown for the Exhibition by the Officers directly connected with the Exhibition - Mr. K. Diesh, Member Operations, Mr. B.N. Som, DDG, Philately, who was in charge of Exhibition till recently, Mr. K.B.H. Nayar, Officer on Special Duty Ms. Devika Kumar, Director Philately, Ms. Madhu Narayanan, Director, Philately, and Mr. P.D. Tshering, ADG., Philately. Our overall thanks are due to Mr. R.U.S. Prasad, Secretary, Department of Posts for his understanding and wise appreciation of the requirements for Exhibition of this magnitude and the advice given to us from time to time in ensuring that the Exhibition will be a grand success.

I must also record my appreciation of the cooperation I have received from Mr. D.N. Jatia, President, FIP and Senior Advisor, INDEPEX 1997, Mr. Kund Mohr, FIP Coordinator, our President Mr. V.S. Dastur and my collegues Messrs Dilip Shah, Secretary General and Mr. Brahm Mehta.

After ensuring that the venue was available the first task was to see to it that all formalities, procedures, and requirements of mounting a massive endeavour of this nature were undertaken within the shortened time span.

The agreement with FIP for obtaining their partonage was signed on the 24th August, 1996 between Mr. Knud Mohr on behalf of FIP and Mr. V.S. Dastur on behalf of PCI and Mr. B.N. Som, Deputy Director General (Phil) on behalf of Government of India.

Simultaneously the work for production of First Bulletin was taken up in right earnest and thanks to untiring efforts of Mr. B.N. Som, Ms. Madhu Narayanan and Mr. P.D. Tshering the Bulletin was made available in due time for the Istanbul International Exhibition where the mounting of the Exhibition was announced at an official reception by Mr. K. Diesh representing Government of India. Mr. Dilip Shah represented the PCI at the meeting as I had to excuse my absence to be present at Istanbul.

The appointment of the Commissioner General was confirmed at the Governing Council Meeting on 26th May, 1996 and at that time, only three National Associations had responded to the letter of the outgoing President for nomination of Commissioners. There after, after persistent efforts were made by sending several

reminders to various Associations, I am now in a position to confirm that 51 National Associations have appointed their Commissioners.

I am also glad to report that due to persistent efforts and due to invaluable assistance of Mr. D.N. Jatia, we have received nominations of qualified and accredited Jury Members in various disciplines from 37 National Associations.

Two copies of the First Bulletin and adequate number of entry forms have also been sent to each National Commissioner. All Federations have also been sent a copy each of the First Bulletin.

The Organising Committee Meeting was held on the 6th September, 1996 and various Committees were appointed to plan and oversee various activities of the Exhibition. A list of the Committees and their Members is attached.

The Organising Committee decided on the various aspects of the Exhibition and approved the list of various commemorative stamps to be brought out in connection with the Exhibition. Other decisions necessary for the conduct of the exhibition were also taken.

Though I was away in Europe on some professional and personal work for about 5 weeks, the work of the Exhibition was carried on without interruption as my office was fully geared and equipped to carry on the work in my absence. On my return I met Mr. K.B.H. Nayar, Officer on Special Duty to make his acquaintance and also to discuss the problems of the Exhibition. I was very impressed with the great enthusiasm he has brought to bear on the conduct of the Exhibition in order to make it an outstanding success. I am looking forward to work with him and his associate Mr. Tshering. Its my impression that the Department of Posts has taken up the matter in right earnest. I have found the officers very cooperative and alive to the demands of occasion. It is now up to us to extend all cooperation to make the Exhibition worthy of the high purpose for which it is being organised.

All over the world, when International Stamp Exhibitions are held, the attendance to Exhibitions is phenomenal. In order to make the Exhibition a success it is our prime duty to ensure that it is met with popular approval particularly among children and youth evidenced by the number of people who visit it. For this purpose, adequate publicity should be given. The popular response should be commensurate with the magnitude of effort. Sponsors should be found for publicity and other funding of this large scale endeavour.

It is now the duty of all of us philatelists to work hard for the success of this great endeavour for the great event celebrates and I look forward for all the assistance and help you can extend to the Commissioner General and his colleagues to make this event a signal success.

In particular your help and assistance would be appreciated at this stage in securing sponsors for the various purposes of the endeavour; like publicity, entertainment, funding of various objectives of the Exhibition and prizes etc, etc. and ensuring that all the dealers booths are rented; and last but not the least in making all efforts in ensuring that the exhibition is a great event. It is our bounden duty to achieve this purpose.

Apart from international participation, a concerted effort should be made to attract a large number of stamp dealers from abroad and from within the country.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to total support of our fraternity in this endeavour. Dear colleagues, I thank you very much for consideration you very much have always shown to me.

G.B. PAI, Commissioner General, 23rd November, 1996

In the last issue we mentioned how the British Philatelic Bureau makes money sharing the cost of printing miniature sheets in a form called 'Prestige Book' as an advertisement of the sponsoring firms. We gave the example of The National Trust prestige stamp booklet which costs exactly what the stamps it contains cost. You, as a collector, get some collectible items, like a pane or two of mixed denominations and colours, in addition to a miniature sheets of the stamps which the book seeks to describe. While the sponsors get a publicity at the cost of an advertisement in newspapers for same space, the P.O. gets full face value of the stamps printed in the booklet.

Normally a stamp collector does not use the stamps in panes. In that case the P.O. gets net income of face value, as there is no minus on account of printing cost which the sponsor has paid. If the collector decides to use it, there is usually a lot of delay between purchase and use, the interest on the face value which the collector loses goes to the P.O.'s income; for a rupee got today is certainly costlier than a rupee receivable tomorrow (in terms of real value or purchasing power of rupee). To get the full sheet for his/her collection the collector often pastes the whole pane of stamps even if the total face value is much more than the postage required to be paid. To that extent the P.O. is a gainer. It is therefore obvious that the P.O. should be generous in pricing a miniature sheet.

India's Himalayan Ecology miniature sheet is priced Rs.30.00 though the total face value of the four stamps is Rs.23.00. We are told, the difference would go to meet the expenses of the World Philatelic Exhibition to be held in 1997 December. If the government would get Rs.23.00 minus the cost of printing, without doing any postal service, would not that go towards such expenses? Why add Rs.7?

Even take the case of BPB's machine vended stamp booklets. You will be tempted to purchase it, first, because there is no hassle of standing in a queue at the P.O., second, sometimes you get a concession. July'96 MV Book set is priced £2, but has 7 stamps of 26p each and 1 of 20p. Did you get how much it comes to? 202 pennies. You save 2 p per booklet besides getting a double colour and double denomination pane of stamps for your collection.

These are the types of concessions which holds the attention of stamp collectors and draws enough dividend for the P.O. **Should not Indian P.O. learn something from British Philatelic Bureau!.....**

KIDS AND YOUNG COLLECTORS LIKE IT :

They are good at the Trivial Pursuit of stamp Collecting

(ideas borrowed from Anne-Marje Sapsted)

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

But after the dramatic decline suffered by the hobby through the Eighties, the trend has halted and interest is slowly beginning to grow again. That is the finding of Royal Mail and

its youth marketing manager Julietta Edgar.

About two years ago the British 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 are not 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 of the eighties the 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; now the membership has exceeded 60,000. (In India the Corona Shoes started a children's stamps club and gave a lot of incentives, but did not keep up its activities, perhaps because the man behind the popularisation project was transferred and his successor in the job was least interested in promotion of stamp collecting.)

"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 had.

"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 screen, 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."

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 ran 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 percent of whom had never collected stamps before.

Collector's Club, local Post Offices provides 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.

Jalpex-'96

JALPEX - '96 was jointly organised from 18-24th Dec., 1996 at Bharat Kala Bhawan, Varanasi by JAL COOPER PHILATELIC SOCIETY and Bharat Kala Bhawan with the cooperation of Postal Department and ROTARY CLUB, MID TOWN. It was inaugurated by Shri Banu Pratap Singh, Postmaster General, Allahabad Region. A Special Mail with Postal Runner was organised and a Special Maxim Card on Goswami TULASIDASJI was brought out on the occasion on his 500th Anniversary. To mark this occasion of JALPEX-96, Special Cancellations were provided by the Postal Department. Shri Raj Kumar Maharaj S.S.P.O's conducted the Inaugural meeting and Prof. Ramesh Chandra Sharma, director Bharat Kala Bhawan, Dr. Bhupendra Pal Singh, Professor of Ancient India History, Heritage and Archeology, Benaras Hindu University, Shri Krishna Kumar Rastogi, Secretary, Jal Cooper Philatelic Society spoke on the occasion. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. Prabal Pratap Singh, President Jal Cooper Philatelic Society.

Among the prominent participants were Dr. Bhupendrapal Singh, Sri Anwar Zamal, Sri Krishnakumar Rastogi and Sriobedullah Tahir. Two Exhibits from Jodhpur were also displayed, in which exhibit of Smt Rekha Goyal on 'TREES & PLANTS' and another entry of Sri Sachir Goyal on 'FLOWERS' were most impressive.

The weeklong exhibition concluded on 24th December and the function was arranged at the Conference Hall of Bharat Kala Bhawan. Sri R.N. Probhakar, G.M.T. Varanasi, presided over the function and Sri Badal Chatterjee, Additional District Judge was the Chief Guest who also distributed the prizes. This function was conducted by Sri Raj Kumar Maharaj, S.S. P.O's and Vote of Thanks proposed by the President Shri Dr. Bhupendrapal Singh of Jal Cooper Philatelic Society. Mr. T.N. Biswas, Dy. Director Bharat Kala Bhawan and Sri K.K. Rastogi, Sec. Jal Cooper Phil. Society thanked the participants and cooperators.

The Exhibition and the various functions conducted were a grand Success - A Report from Sri K.K. Rastogi, Secy. Jal Cooper Philatelic Society.

BEATLES OBJECT TO STAMP SALE

Newark (New Jersey): Yoko Ono and the surviving Beatles say stamp distributor shouldn't be selling Fab Four stamps issued by third world nations.

"This is bootleg merchandise which is hiding behind the fact that small, third world countries put a seal of approval on them," said their lawyer, Paul Licalsi.

They charge in a federal lawsuit that the international collectors society of Owings Mills, Maryland, violated licensing laws by selling stamps bearing Beatles likenesses from such nations as Chad, Madagascar, St. Vincent and Tanzania.

The lawsuit said the company even worked with some nations to get the stamps made, even though a minimal number were actually sold in post offices in those countries.

(The Times of India, New Delhi, October, 12, 1996)

LEARN WITH STAMPS

MOTHER TO ALL

Philatelists will be glad to know that the 1996 "Europa" stamp issue of San Marino is dedicated to Mother Teresa. The 750 lira stamp features a painting of Mother Teresa. This painting is created by the famous actress Gina Lollobrigida, who is also an artist.



In 1992 when the actress published a book of photographs she decided to donate the proceeds to Mother Teresa, saying "this woman embodies the Christian message and while possessing great strength of character she is incredibly sweet".

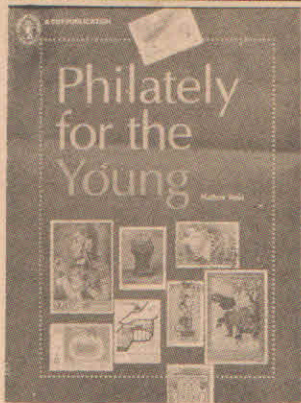
Mother Teresa is known throughout the world for her humanitarian work and for this reason, on the proposal of Gina Lollobrigida, the sum of 32,000,000 lira (\$20,000) assigned to her for the needy. Before this stamp issue, India and Sweden also paid tribute to Mother Teresa by issuing a stamp each on the occasion of her receiving the Nobel Prize.

CYANIDE ON STAMPS : ALERT IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lankan soldiers have been asked not to lick postal stamps bought from local outlets after authorities found traces of cyanide on the gum, a local newspaper reported today.

Tamil Tiger rebels often use cyanide to escape capture and officials fear that the guerillas might be trying to poison the soldiers, who are trying to crush their movement. - (AP Hindu 22.12.1996)

"PHILATELY FOR THE YOUNG": A BOOK REVIEW :



Stamp collecting as a hobby both by young and old has been in existence for more than a century, and the interest in the hobby seems to have never diminished over the passing of so many decades still.

Normally what used to be started as a collection of beautiful stamps of birds, animals, flora & fauna, famous men & women etc.,

when one is young; develops into a serious study of stamps at a later stage, if one is really involved & dedicated into an analysis of lithographs, proofs, essays, paper, watermarks, origin & history etc., thus raising the whole gamut of stamp collecting almost into a fine art. While very few people achieve the status of a true philatelist, almost most of the plebians like us, are still content and happy with a motley collection of beautiful stamps mounted in an album rigidly gummed to the sheets and proudly show it to our children and grand children like a precious memento!

Stamp collection as a hobby is an enduring one, and is said to have captivated the hearts of many a famous one like President Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth II, Adolf Hitler, Baron Rothschild etc. While it is aesthetically pleasing to the mind, while collecting stamps; it also provides an understanding relating to the history, geography, religion, animals and achievements of the various nations, and also mankind in general.

The book "**Philately for the Young**", by Mathew Varki, published by Childrens Book Trust, fulfils a long felt need in the hobby of stamp collecting by providing basic facts about origin & evolution of stamps, Postal history, how to make a beginning in stamp collecting, mounting, maintenance, and display methods, technical aspects of stamp collecting like Watermarks, paper, design, printing, colour codes etc., in a simple and prosaic fashion. Moreover, it also gives a brief introduction to the identification methods, Stamps exhibitions, regulations applicable to judging the exhibits etc. Also, a small note of promotion on Philately, World Identifier, and a glossary of philatelic terms given in the book would be very useful not only to the beginner, but to the serious collector as well.

The reviewer has found the book very lucid, written in simple English, with a lot of details essential to anybody who wants to take stamp collecting as a hobby.

The type setting is pleasing to the eye, and readable easily, and printed in good quality paper, thus providing a fairly good shelf life for the book.

Moderately priced, this book is highly recommended to a budding collector as a must to understand stamp collecting, and to develop it in a proper way, and on sound lines. Price Rs.45/-

- M.V. Ramamoorthi -

FACTS :

The eldest British stamp designer was 91 years old while the youngest was just five.

With the exception of the Royal Family, British Stamps never feature living people because stamps honour a lifetime's work.

Stamps can come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Tonga once issued a banana shaped stamp.

Did you know that more than 3 millions adults in the UK collect stamps or buy them for other people-that's as many people as there are in the whole of Wales.

ILSAPEX'96

The International Philatelic Exhibition 'Ilsapex'98' will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, sponsored by the Society of Israel Philately, Johannesburg and the South African Philatelic Dealers Association, with the support of F.I.P. from 20th to 25th October, 1998.

The exhibition will take place at the Gallagher Estate Exhibition Centre. Around 2000 competitive frames will be on display alongwith Court of Honour, Invitees exhibits, etc. The participation fee for the competitive class is U.S. \$ 40 per frame. Youth Class entries will be accepted free of charge. The literature class entry will be U.S. \$ 40 for each title.

The Indian Commissioner for the exhibition is Mrs. Damayanthi M. Pittie, 'Suket', 4th Floor, 29-B, Dongersi Cross Lane, Mumbai-400 006, India. Phone No.3633696, 3624958, Fax No.022-2662914.

Exhibitors interested in participation may contact her at the above address giving full details of his/her collection and previous awards.

Sub : Letters to the Editor

Dr P.S. Dixit,
B-7, Dept of Space Housing Colony,
Jeevan Bima Nagar, Bangalore 560 075.

Sir,

This has a reference to an article titled "EXPRESS DELIVERY POST MARKS OF COCHIN 1940 TO 1949 G.B. Pai, which appeared in SIPA BULLETIN of Sept.-Oct. 1996. Letters, cards, packets and parcels not exceeding 100 tolas in weight were accepted as Expresses, and sent by Express Anchal. In Addition to the registration fee of 2 annas 3 pies and an Express fee, calculated on the distance dak runner had to travel, at the rate of 6 annas for the first mile, and 4 annas per every succeeding mile or fraction thereof, had to be paid. For an acknowledgement, 1 anna fee was charged. Express Delivery Post Marks illustrated in the above mentioned article, as well as in the book titled "COCHIN POST MARKS AND CANCELLATIONS", By G.B. Pai (Robson Lowe, 1974 Ed; pp 66-70) were not meant exclusively for Express Delivery letters. I have several envelopes bearing normal postage stamps and cancelled with Pai-Type 70-73 obliterations. If I recollect correctly, Late Dr N.S. Mooss also had expressed similar opinion in one of his publication.

I suggest that the above observation is brought to the notice of the SIPA BULLETIN readers and collectors of Cochin Anchal.