

ECOPEX 95

SOUVENIR



South India Philatelists' Association
Madras 600 079





"ECOPEX 95" STAMPS EXHIBITION



SOUVENIR

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS ASSOCIATION
41 PERUMAL MUDALI STREET
SOWCARPET MADRAS - 600 070





भारत के उप-राष्ट्रपति के निजी सचिव
नई दिल्ली

**PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

September 21, 1995

M E S S A G E

The Vice-President of India is glad to know that the South India Philatelists' Association is conducting an exhibition "ECOPEX'95" from 5th to 9th October, 1995.

The Vice-President sends his greetings to the participants and good wishes for the success of the Exhibition.

V. Ayyaswamy

(V. AYYASWAMY)



सदस्य (विकास)
Member (Development)

डाक सेवा बोर्ड भारत
Postal Services Board, India
डाक भवन, संसद मार्ग,
नई दिल्ली
New Delhi - 110001

No. D.O. MD-144/Rn-95
September 14, 1995.

Dear Shri Das,

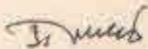
I am glad to hear from you that South Indian Philatelists' Association is holding a national level Stamp Exhibition under the banner 'ECOPEX - 95' October 5 through 9, 1995, at Madras.

At no other time can this exhibition be more relevant than now, when awareness is being promoted all over the country against environmental degradation that man has recklessly allowed to happen. The gifts that man has on earth were to be preserved and protected, but in his greed and hurry he lost sight of their value to the chagrin of those who hold the earth close to them. Their ranks are swelling gradually, thanks to a missionary zeal to spread the message around and convert minds. It is hoped that the future reversal will be faster than the past degradation and man will be left to enjoy the health of a better environment.

Stamps brought out by many countries have highlighted the value of environment. Bringing them together to delight and enlighten the viewers is a great step and South India Philatelists' Association deserves all commendation for this honest effort. The Association, as I know, has a long history of worthwhile service in the cause of productive philately, and I am sure that this exhibition will be a success.

I convey my good wishes

Yours sincerely,


[C.J. MATHEW]

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das
Secretary,
South India Philatelists' Association,
41 Perumal Mudali Street, Sowcarpet,
Madras - 600 079.

S. BRAHMANANDAM

मुख्य डाक महाध्यक्ष
CHIEF POSTMASTER GENERAL

तमिलनाडु सर्किल, मद्रास - 600 002
TAMILNADU CIRCLE MADRAS 600 002

M E S S A G E .

Stamps are a fascinating hobby, one that allows collections to become familiar with the cultures of many lands - their arts, their traditions and their folklore. History, Geography, Biology, Zoology, Botany, Mythology, Painting, Architecture and Biography are just a few of the areas one can explore in the world of stamps. There is no facet of life which is not covered by stamps. The art of collection of stamps provides an insight into various aspects of the present, the past and the future.

I am glad to learn that the South India Philatelic Association (SIPA) which is doing a good job in promoting the stamp collection, is holding philatelic exhibition in Madras from Oct. 5, 1995. Such exhibitions are the appropriate platforms which cultivate and encourage the spirit of philately amongst all visitors and competitors. More importantly, the theme selected by the SIPA for this Exhibition, Ecology, is of great significance and more relevant today. In these days the need of the hour is the awareness of the forces which upset the ecological balance that cause great havoc not only to mankind but also to any living being besides plant life.

I wish the Exhibition every success and I am sure that the exhibits displayed will be a source of inspiration and will generate keener enthusiasm especially among the budding philatelists.

S. BRAHMANANDAM
Chief Postmaster General,
Tamil Nadu Circle.



UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

UPU TELEFAX

Berne, 3 octobre 1995

Our reference
(SDG II/B)

Mr Ajit Chordia
Vice-Chairman
South India Philatelists' Association
41 Perumal Mudali Street
Sowcarpet

MADRAS 600 079 (INDIA)

FAX: +9144) 828 02 79

Dear Mr Chordia,

Thank you for your letter informing me of the holding of the ECOPEX 95 from 5 to 9 October 1995.

I should compliment you and the organisers on the unique idea of using philately for promoting the cause of environment and to heighten awareness among people to preserve ecology.

At the Universal Postal Union, we attach considerable importance to protection of the environment and the promotion of philately. We have developed a policy toward the implementation of environmental protection in the postal field. And as for philately, a UPU contact committee between International Philatelic Associations and postal administrations has been set up.

On behalf of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union and on my own behalf, - I wish ECOPEX 95 all success.

Yours sincerely,

M.S. RAMAN
Assistant Director-General

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FIP

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D.N. JATIA
PRESIDENT

18, NETAJI SUBHAS ROAD
CALCUTTA - 700 001, INDIA
FAX NO.91 33 220 9748

September 22, 1995

MESSAGE

I am glad that South India Philatelists' Association an affiliate of Philatelic Congress of India, is in the forefront in organising ECOPEX'95 covering the topic Ecology besides Biology. Preservation of Environment in the wake of rapid growth of population is a very dear subject in the heart of mankind. Bringing the awareness through the media of stamps, to attract the attention of the people, is a novel idea.

I wish all success to the organisers of ECOPEX'95.


D.N. Jatia

M. S. SWAMINATHAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

M. S. SWAMINATHAN

Chairman

MSS/VS/ 5575

14 September 1995

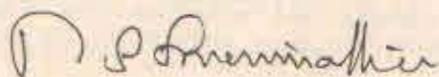
Shri G. Madan Mohan Das
Secretary
South India Philatelists' Association
41 Perumal Mudali Street
Sowcarpet, Madras 600 079

Dear Shri Madan Mohan Das,

I am happy that you are bringing out a souvenir on the occasion of ECOPEX'95 Stamp Exhibition. Stamps provide a powerful and beautiful means of conveying important messages. I am therefore happy that this exhibition is being held. I wish the exhibition much success.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



M.S. Swaminathan

The Philatelic Society of India

Kamal Mahal,
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Bombay - 400 020.

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Message for ECOPEX-95

I am glad to know that SIPA are holding a grand Philatelic Exhibition at the National Level called EcopeX-95 in October 1995 on the subjects of Ecology & Environmentalism. Your Association has done very creditable work in the promotion of Philately, and this is a most opportune time for holding an Exhibition on such a subject, which is of great topical interest & importance owing to the rapid destruction of nature by man in our quest for greater & greater industrialisation & material welfare.

Irreplaceable fossil fuels and minerals in the earth are being rapidly depleted, the rivers & seas are being polluted by industrial effluents & oil slicks, numerous species of fauna & flora will soon cease to exist, the tiger may soon become extinct, millions of trees are being cut down daily, and even the Taj Mahal is threatened by blackening by smoke from factories.

The poisoning of the atmosphere by harmful gases is choking human lungs, carbon dioxide and other harmful gases are causing the "hot-house effect" by raising the mean temperature of the earth and threatening to melt the huge ice blocks at the poles, which will cause the flooding of low-lying countries.

Other harmful gases such as freon gas and some propellents are depleting the ozone layer which prevents the harmful ultra-violet rays of the sun from entering the atmosphere and holes have already been punched in the ozone layer. The legacy we are leaving for the immediate future is truly alarming, and it is high time to cry a halt. In Mexico City it is difficult to see the sun even at mid-day owing to the smog.

If your Exhibition helps to enlighten the public about the grave nature of these threats to health & life resulting from the rapid destruction of nature, it will have fulfilled a very useful educational purpose.

I hope the Exhibition will be well-attended and wish it and the organisers all success.



B. B. Paymaster
(B. B. PAYMASTER, I.C.S. (RETD.)
President, Philatelic Society
of India.



Empire of India Philatelic Society

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Bombay 400 001. Tel.: 287 04 29

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the South India Philatelists Association is organising on a national level ECOPEX - 95 an Exhibition to highlight various aspects of the preservation of the environment.

Today the preservation of the environment by holding the delicate balance of nature is of paramount significance and countries all over the world have produced beautiful stamps showing their flora and fauna, etc, to create public awareness in this connection.

I am sure the Exhibition will go a long way in not only making the visitors environment conscious but also in promoting the highly interesting and educational hobby of stamp collecting.

My best wishes for the success of the Exhibition.

Dastur
11/5/75
VISPI S. DASTUR

PRESIDENT

EMPIRE OF INDIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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A word From The Chairman



Dear Philatelist,

DO NO

I am happy to note that the preparation for **ECOPEX'95** is in full swing and I am sure that the exhibition will certainly be a mighty **SUCCESS**.

The theme for this exhibition - **ECOLOGY** - is very topical. With the accent on liberalisation and opening up of our economy, world's attention is now focused on India for rapid industrialisation and business activities. Unless the nation gives importance to the balance between nature and man, nature and animal, nature and plant life, and does not ignore all the factors that keep this delicate balance, a major disaster could result. I am sure **ECOPEX'95** exhibition being put together by the Philatelists exhibiting stamps rare and common that are connected to this subject will be an eye opener to the thousands of visitors. It will also be fun to see the theme being developed through varieties of stamps.

I congratulate all the organisers for making this event a success and wish everyone many more hours of stamp collection.

U. Mohan Rao
Chairman ECOPEX '95

An Unending Journey

It all started about fortyfive years ago, when I, along with my father and brother went to then Moor Market. As we entered, beautiful stamps stared at me from the glass cubboards. Further, knowing where my eyes were fixed, he purchased a nice world stamp album and few stamps. The bug had bitten me, and I knew that this will not leave me so easily. Thus started journey into the NEW WORLD of STAMPS. Sure, Columbus would envy me, for, he won't be able to explore this WORLD of Stamps.

Collecting for such a long time was not an easy affair - there were many dark spots - as I sailed along, 'Collection' stoped at various points of call such as SSLC exams, Intermediate and then Professional Courses and finally plunging into LIFE-vocational life. But still undaunted as the early explorers. I still continued sailing further in the quest of beautiful but meaningful stamps. A sudden turn came when I returned to Madras in 1971, for better. I met my ever lasting friend Mr 'GB' at an exhibition at the US consulate. The friendship started then, brought in many new friends - too many to name.

The first state level stamps exhibition TANAPEX - 72, kindled a fire in me that is to take on a new course. My ship changed direction from a General Collector to Topical Explorer. Somehow I had a fasination for ships, but I have never travelled in a ship till now. But the

beauty of those sailing ships on the stamps made me to go in that direction. Ever since then I am being pulled into the vortex, presently there are some 28 chapters on the collection, from logs to nuclear sub marines. Included are Harbours, Light Houses and Nautical Terms, shown through plain stamps, on covers, postal stationeries and on maximum cards.

With the urge to know more about the ships depicted on stamps, made me to join specialised societies. One do require a good captain to sail a ship. About 1989 when we had our BIOPEX 89 a new turn took place on my steady course, I saw a nice blue currency note with a ship on it. Fancy took its wings - soon I was collecting ships on notes. In 1991, fate bought me to head a coin club. All of a sudden I started hearing tingling sound - YES SHIPS ON COINS. That is it. Franckly I do not know when will I reach a port to rest.

When I take time off from my album pages and take twenty winks I dream as to what is the GREATEST GIFT we mankind have today - from the days of Mahakavi Kalidasa when sweet messages were sent through the clouds - BECAUSE they did not have a POSTAGE STAMP with them. Yes 'postage stamp' is the best gift we have today.

D.H. Rao
President
SIPA

EDITORIAL...

ECOPEX 95 is yet another stamp exhibition conducted by the South India Philatelists Association on a special theme after the last one; the 'BIOBEX - 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 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 lyrics 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 goats; 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

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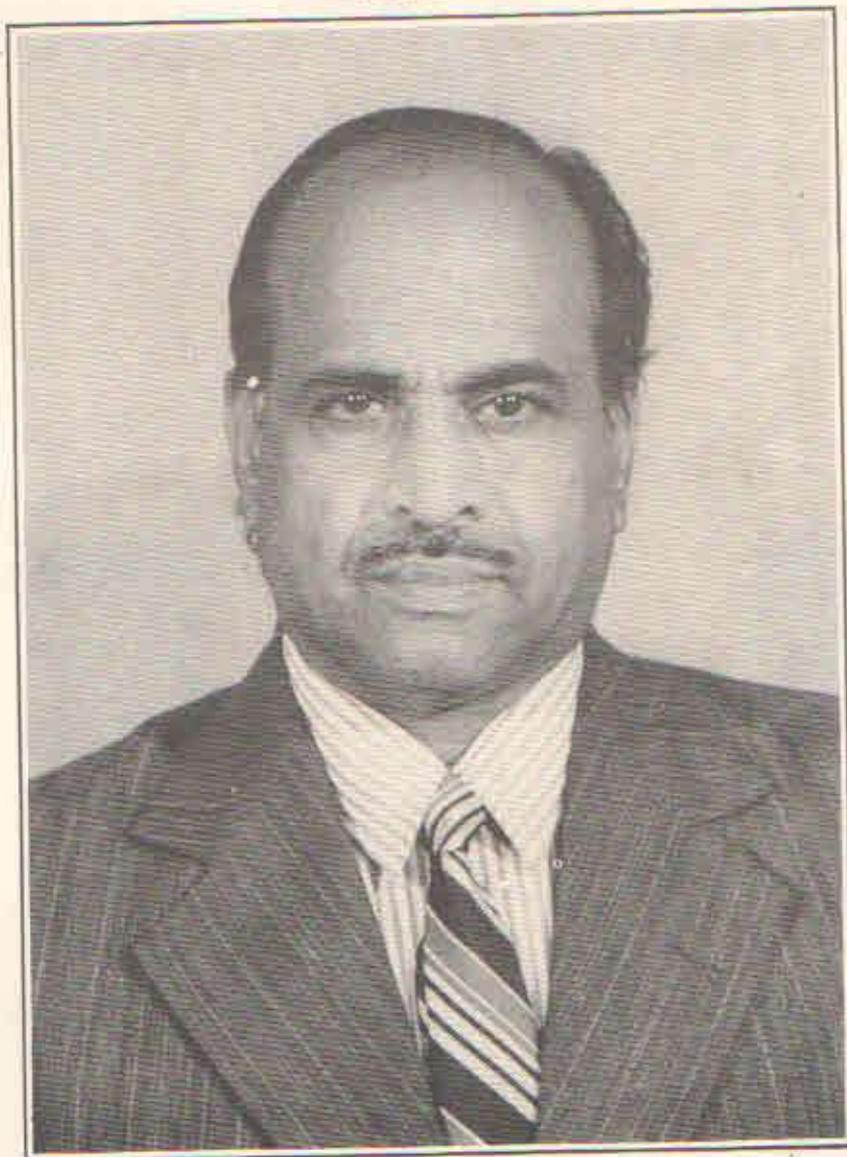
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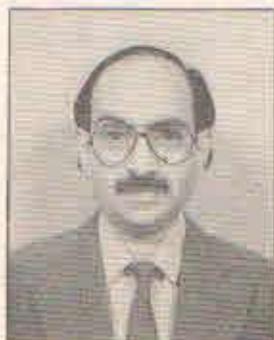
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Chengai MGR District

MAMALLAPURAM



A place situated on the sea shore of Bay of Bengal. Famous for Cave temples and carvings on stones of pallava period

VEDANTHANGAL



Bird Sanctuary
(A Tourist Spot)

Coimbatore District

PERUR



Pre - Historic Siva Temple Santified by St. Appar & St.Sundarar

TOPSLIP



Wild Life Sanctuary
Situated at an altitude of 2500 ft. with natural echo system.



THE CANCELLATION DEPICTS THE 2&3 Mtr. TELESCOPE NAMED AFTER SRI VEINU BAPPU. THE OBSERVATORY IS WELL KNOWN TOWARLD ASTRONOMERS.



DEPICTS TOTA HUT TODAS AN ANCIENT INHABITANTS OF THE UPPER NILGIRI PLATEAU. ONE OF THE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF THE SETTLEMENTS OF THIS PASTORAL TRIBE IS THEIR BARREL-VAULTED DWELLING PLACE. THEY CALL IT AS 'RSH'. MADE OUT OF BAMBOO CANES AND THATCHING GRASS TO SUIT THE CLIMATIC CONDITION OF THE HILL REGION.

Dindigul Anna District

KODAIKANAL



Hills Station and Summer resort situated in western ghat hills,

PALANI



Important Hindu Pilgrim Centre dedicated to God Muruga.

Kanyakumari District

KANYAKUMARI



Land's End of India where Swami Vivekananda Meditated in 1892.

Madras City

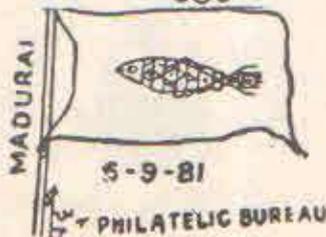
MYLAPORE



Place of Famous Siva Temple named as Mylapore after Punna tree and peacock.

Madurai District

MADURAI



Athens of South India - Capital of ancient Pandian emperors famous for Meenakshi Temple

Nagai Quaid -E- Millath District

KODIKKARAI



A Bird Sanctuary famous for overseas birds like Flemigoes.

NAGORE



Holy place of Muslims - Durga Sherif is an object of great veneration.

TIRUVARUR



तिरुवारूर

14-10-89

TIRUVARUR

The place where Siva Temple is having 2nd biggest car in Tamilnadu, and birth place of karnatic music trinities.

VAILANKANNI



The place of apparition of OUR LADY OF HEALTH - A pilgrim centre.

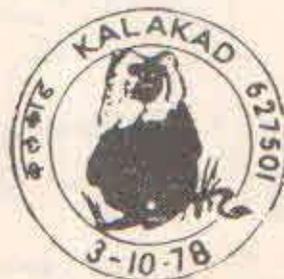
Nellai Kattabomman District

COURTALLAM



Tourist spot - Water falls is the chief attraction of this place - There are number of water falls containing Herbal & Mineral values.

KALAKAD



Wild life sanctuary and a place of tourism. Lion tailed macaques, one of the rare species living in this forest.

Nilgiris District

MUDUMALAI



A Wild life sanctuary at a hight of 8885 to 1000 mts in Blue Mountains famous for Elephants and Bisons

Periyar District

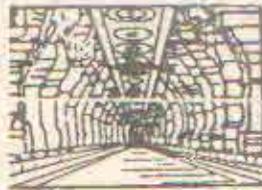
BHAVANI



A place situated in the midst of five hills - named as Bhavani Kudal because of the confluence of river Bhavani with Cauvery.

Ramnad District

RAMESWARAM



Depicts the world famous Largest 11thrd Corridor of Rameswaram Temple Built by Raja of Ramnad

South Arcot District

GINGEE



Place of historical monumental & Archiological importance. Famous for Two hills Viz Krishnagiri & Rajagiri for their fortification sand moat.

Thanjavur District

THANJAVUR



A place of historical Importance with Braghdeswarar Temple called as Big Temple. Built by Raja Rajacholan

THIRUVAIYARU



A Village where St. Thiyagaraja a great composer of karnatic music lived

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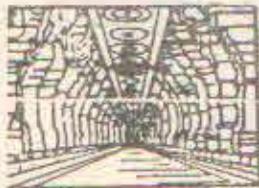
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A Village where St. Thiyagaraja a great composer of karnatic music lived

Tiruchirapalli District

SRIRANGAM



A holy shrine of vaishnavites called as Boologa Vaikuntam. Lord Ranganatha exhibits himself in the lying posture 'Anantha Sayana in Serpent bed.

TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI



Rock Fort - a symbol of Tiruchirapalli city. Built of huge granite boulders during 16th century by Nayak kings of Madurai. It houses famous Thayumanavar and Vinayagar Temples.

V.O.Chidambaranar District

ETTAIYAPURAM



This is the birth place of poet Bharathi.



इकोपेक्स
ECOPEX 95

अन्ना रोड, मद्रास
ANNA ROAD, MADRAS
600 002

5.10.95

विशेष आवरण SPECIAL COVER



ECOPEX 95

5 to 9 Oct. 1995

South India Philatelists' Association
Madras 600 079



SPECIAL COVER SPONSORED BY



NEPC+MICON LIMITED

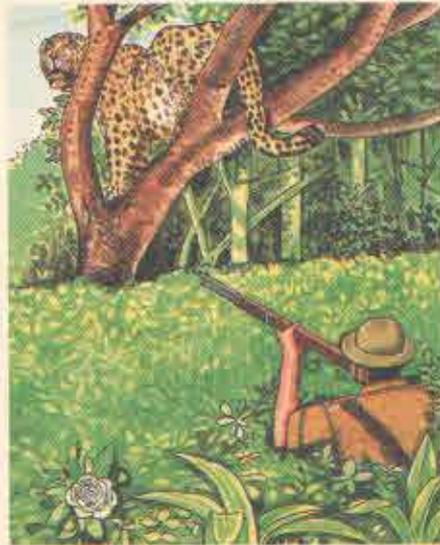
The world's No. 1 in wind power

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CANCELLATION DESIGN

इकोपेक्स ECOPEX 95



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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

POLLUTION PREVENTION PAYS

CANCELLATION DESIGN

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8.10.95

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CITIBANK

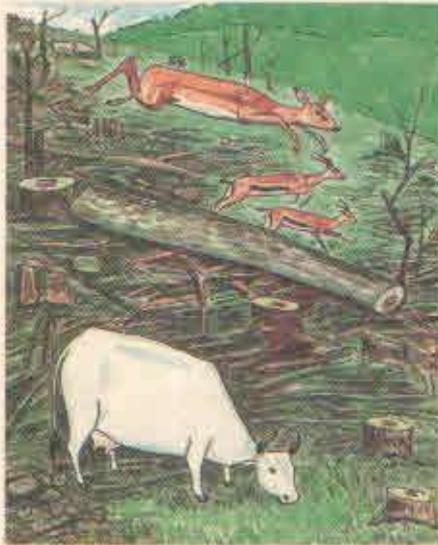
NOT JUST BANKING. CITIBANKING.

इकोपेक्स ECOPEX 95



अन्ना रोड, मद्रास
ANNA ROAD, MADRAS
600 002
9.10.95

विशेष आवरण SPECIAL COVER



ECOPEX 95
5 to 9 Oct. 1995
South India Philatelists' Association
Madras 600 079



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**Dangers to the environment & species affected
form the basis for special cover cancellation designs for
ECOPEX 95 Exhibition
5th - to 9th Oct.1995**

5.10.1995

**Wind power generation - an environment friendly,
renewable source of energy**

The industrial revolution resulted in the rapid depletion of fossil fuels and extensive damage to the environment. In the search for renewable sources of energy, which are also environment friendly, several development efforts have been made, especially in solar, wind, ocean, biomass, etc. Of this only wind power generation has proved to be economically viable.

For centuries, wind energy has been harnessed for various purposes - sailing of ships, grinding wheels of a mill and drawing water from wells. In recent years, it has been used to generate power of the same quality (voltage and frequency) as generated by conventional sources such as water and coal.

Development in this field occurred mainly in the US and Europe. India took its first steps in 1986, when demonstration projects under the aegis of the then Department of Non-Conventional energy started feeding power to the grid. The pioneering efforts of NEPC-Micon Ltd. in the organised sector in 1991 has speeded the course of wind power generation in India.

In the last few years, thanks to the Government's major emphasis on promoting wind power generation, and the efforts of leading players in the field, India has seen a dramatic increase in wind power generation in the last few years.

This environment friendly and renewable source of energy is bound to take the country by storm within the next few years.

Cancellation 5.10.1995

The revolving blades of a wind turbine generation, producing power from the wind.

Sponsored by **NEPC-MICON LIMITED**

6.10.95

Hunting / Poaching

In the early days hunting was primarily the prerogative of kings and members of the ruling clan. Rulers and nobles zealously protected their hunting preserves and poaches of royal game were severely punished. But with the fall of the monarchies and the free availability of furs especially after the World War II hunting increased putting a severe strain on wildlife, especially the larger more spectacular species.

Even today animal products - skin, horns, ivory, bones etc., are in great demand and wild creatures are being ruthlessly slaughtered for them. Probably the worst hit are the

big cats, tigers, leopards and cheetahs which are hunted primarily for their beautiful coats which command exorbitant prices - a tiger skin for example costs Rs. 18,000/-. While tigers and leopards are still found in small numbers in India, the Indian Cheetah (*Aunonyx Jubatus Venatus*) is now extinct. Last heard of when three young males were killed by a hunter in Bastor (M.P.) in 1948. If immediate steps are not taken to control the obnoxious trade in animal products, a host of other creatures, tigers, rhinos, elephants, musk deer, to name a few, may soon follow in the footsteps of the Indian Cheetah.

Cancellation : Head of Cheetah, cheetah skin & Gun.

7.10.1995

Pollution of Atmosphere

One of the most direct killers; not only to animals and plants, but also man, Toxic emissions from industries and motor vehicles which spew not only poisons but also harmful gases like carbon monoxide and nitrogen into the air. Pollution is indeed a killer - over 100 die annually in chemical factories, every tenth child in Delhi suffers from respiratory illness and the number is rising and possibility of disasters like Bhopal gas tragedy are ever present thereto. The most affected severely are those animals at the pinnacle of their food chains - birds of prey, like the Peregrine falcon (*Falco Peregrinus*). Insecticides and toxic poisons accumulate in body tissues of insects which are eaten by insect eating birds which get a large dose. Insect eating birds are the prime prey of the peregrino falcon which accumulates large doses in its body tissues, which leads to slow poisoning. Often in large numbers. But even small doses make the birds infertile and their egg shells become so thin that they break when incubated. The peregrino falcon was once found all over India, now it is very rare no actual figures exist as it is only occasionally sighted from time to time.

Cancellation : Peregrine falcon & Industries discharging polluted smoke and chemical effluents.

Sponsored by **Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board**

8-10-95

Water Pollution

One of the most dreaded forms of environmental disasters is water pollution. Often one hears of people dying from drinking water from polluted rivers and even now the percentage of toxin in the human body is highest in India, slow poisoning. Industrial pollutants and raw sewage is often dumped into lakes rivers and seas. This contaminates and poisons the water leading to the death of aquatic creatures - like fish - that die in large numbers. The water becomes uninhabitable and undrinkable.

Creatures that depend upon fish too are seriously hit. The Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) a fish eating species of crocodile was found in large numbers in rivers of India. Today only 2000 survive.

Cancellation : Gharial, Pollution of water & dead fish.

Sponsored by **CITY BANK**

**Competition for food and living space by
domestic animals and man**

It has been said that the biggest pollutant on earth is man. He has decimated forests, polluted the atmosphere and water, hunted and killed wild creatures and as if that was not enough multiplied enormously.

The increasing human population puts great pressure on wild life and wild places. In addition to food for himself, man needs land to provide food for animals on which he is dependant - domestic animals like goats, sheep, cattle, pigs etc., In most places in India domestic livestock are allowed to graze freely competing with wild species for food and living space. Overgrazing turns fertile habitates into deserts - goats are worst offenders in this respect. The Indian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus khar*) once occurred in vast numbers in the semi arid areas. Overgrazing by domestic goats have decimated the fodder and wild asses have starved to death. Now only 400 remain - the last remains of the ancestors of the domestic donkey.

Cancellation : Indian Wild Ass, Domestic Goat & Woman cutting fodder for livestock.

Sponsored by INDIAN BANK

BIOBEX 89

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION



Lady Members : Mrs. M.K. Kalaiselvi, Miss. Radhalakshmi and Mrs.D.H.Rao at the reception table awaiting his excellency the Governor.



Mr. A.C.Trilokanth, Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, Mr. R. Chittibabu Mr. U. Mohan Rao (Chairman-Biopex 89) Mr. R. Mohanasundaram and Mr. F.P. Seervai at the entrance



His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu is being received on arrival by Mr. U. Mohan Rao, Ms. Dr. Nandita C Krishna, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das and Mr. V.S. Varadhan CPMG.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu Dr. A.C. Alexander, is lighting the Kuthuvilakku



His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu Dr. P.C. Alexander is being garlanded by Mr. D.H. Rao, Vice President BIOPEX 89



Chief Post Master General Mr. V.S. Varadhan is being garlanded by Mr. G. Amarchand, Treasurer SIPA.



His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu Dr. P.C. Alexander
addressing the gathering on the inauguration day



Release of the BIOPEX 89 Souvenir



**Ms. Dr. Nanditha C Krishna Vice Chairperson
BIOPEX 89 addressing the gathering**



**Mr. U. Mohan Rao, Chairman BIOPEX 89
addressing the gathering**

DOYANS OF PHILATELY RECEIVING MEMENTOS



Doyan Mr. D.R. Mistry, receiving the memento from Mrs. Prameela Menezes



Doyan Mr. V.N.S. Rau, receiving the Memento from Mrs. Prameela Menezes



Mr. A.V. Radhakrishnan receiving Vermeil Medal from Mrs. Prameela Menezes



Mr. A. Ravooft receiving Silver Medal from Mrs. Prameela Menezes



(L to R) Mr. MG. Pittie (Member Jury), Mr. V.N.S. Rau (Doyan of Philately) Mr. D.R.Mistry (Doyan of Philately) and Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, President SIPA



Jury

Mr. M.T. Karunakaran (Trainee), Mr. M.G. Pittie (Member)
Mr. P. Soundararajan (Trainee) and Mr. V.N.S. Rau (Chairman-Consultant)

About Ourselves

The South India Philatelist's Association affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India was started in 1956 with a handful of keen enthusiastic people, encouraged by the Late Shri Varadarajalu Chettiar with the first President of the association Rev. Christadoss of the Danish Mission who generously placed his spacious hall for holding of the meetings of the association on Sundays of the month. Further encouragement was afforded to the association by eminent philatelists like the Late Shri M.L. Tannan philatelist and educationist and the Late S.T. Srinivasa Gopalachari, eminent advocate of the Madras Bar and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelists' Society, London, who inaugurated our first exhibition in the year 1959.

This was followed by another exhibition, just at the time when the United States of America programmed to issue two stamps in the popular denominations of 4 and 5 cents portraying the Father of the Nation - Mahatma Gandhi - in their 'Champion of Liberty' series. This we were able to sponsor with the active co-operation of the United States Information Service headed by Mr. Renzo Pagin, in January 1961, in placing their spacious Library Hall in addition to providing frames and other material to exhibit the stamps. We are happy to say that Mrs. and Mr. Ellsworth Bunker, Ambassador of the United States of America in India visited this exhibition.

It has been our good fortune to have the assistance and active co-operation of the United States Information Service in holding further exhibitions in the year 1962, 1964, 1969, 1972 and the functions held in connection with the issuance of stamps in India to honour Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Landing of Man on the moon, with the co-operation of the Indo-American Society.

We had the unique opportunity and the assistance not only of the United States Information Service but also that of the respective Consul Generals of the United States at Madras, to name a few Dr. Thomas

W. Simons, Dr. Albert Franklin, Mr. Recknagel, Mr. Stephen, E. Palmer Jr. and Miss. Cecil Johnson.

Here a special mention has to be made of the very important part played by Late Major V.S. Rajagopalan, who always avoided the limelight but worked ceaselessly and whole heartedly to make the above said exhibitions successful. We owe a deep depth of gratitude to him.

Our association gets effective help and encouragement from the Postmaster Generals in the Madras Circle starting with the Late Shri. L.K. Narayanaswami from 1960 till date. They offered us very many facilities in the matter of promotion of philately in Madras and in Tamilnadu. They have placed the Philatelic Bureau at our disposal on the second Sunday of every month where we have our monthly meetings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. regularly and this activity has kept the association going. We also meet on third sundays to exchange views and also stamps with one another. Because of this our association has grown from strength to strength. Today its membership runs to 365 Life Members and 90 Ordinary Members.

Our association has grown from strength to strength because of the very valuable services rendered by our past Presidents Dr. P.S.T.C. Mitchell, Sri.S. Ramaswamy, Dr. C.A. Rajagopalachari, Sri. V.N.S. Rau, Sri. Fredun P. Seervai and G. Madan Mohan Das. Their hard work is now being continued with vigour by the present members.

First and foremost mention must be made of our Vice President Shri G. Amarchand who is our Hon. Treasurer for a long period and who has placed a large room in his building free of cost to house our Library and generously gives the lounge in his own house for our General Body Meetings. His efforts to raise funds for holding our Philatelic Exhibitions is really praiseworthy.

Another stalwart of our association is Shri G. Balakrishna Das who is one of the

Founder Members and the first treasurer of the Association, holds the office of Hon. Secretary since the second year and till now is known for his pleasing manners. He was always capable of bringing the members together whenever a work like that of conducting Exhibitions are taken up. He worked sincerely for the welfare of our Association. In fact he is one of the Pillars of the Association.

Our past President Shri. F.P. Seervai visited schools in Madras City and encouraged students to take up this hobby and is responsible for starting stamp clubs in a number of schools. He is one of those who gave regular talks at the monthly meetings with some display material for the benefit of fellow Philatelists. Another member Shri Veeraraghavan also went to the schools and gave lectures and demonstrations in nearly 50 schools and helped to spread the value of this wonderful hobby among school children.

Shri D.H. Rao, our present President, an Architect by profession, a serious collector of 'Ships' on stamps, having keen interest in Numismatics and Notaphily has in no small measure rendered yeoman service to the successful conduct of our exhibition. We celebrated our Silver Jubilee in 1981 by holding a stamp exhibition at Hamid Buildings, Madras and this was possible solely due to his untiring efforts. Again he gave the same dedicated service in holding exhibitions in 1985-1989 at Corporation Indoor Stadium, and once again, now also he gave us the same dedicated service in our successful efforts in the ECOPEX '95 Stamp Exhibition.

Shri M.T.Karunakaran who is the founder Editor of our SIPA Bi-monthly Bulletin since its inception in July 1980 and up to 1993, at present one of our Secretaries is one of the dedicated members and has been the Editor for all the exhibition souvenir.

Mr. K. Prasad, who was one of the Secretaries for many terms, has been playing vital roles in all the Exhibitions and other activities of the Association along with his

smiling active wife Smt. RAJESWARI PRASAD. He also helped the Treasurer in finalising the accounts.

Mrs & Mr Ramanujam, both of them having keen interest in Thematic Philately have both taken the hobby to the school children by conducting workshops and giving lectures. No wonder their son, Mr. Eric Ramanujam having interest mainly in wildlife and nature won a large vermeil. He also willingly helps those interested in the hobby. The workshop on philately conducted by them along with others under the chairmanship of Mr. U. Mohan Rao, was probably one of the best one conducted in India. The whole credit must go to them.

Shri C.S. Sankaranarayanan following Shri A.C. Triloknath took the trouble to see to the smooth working of our Library making copious cross references and indexing the large volumes of our Philatelic Literature and keeping the library open for the benefit of our members on Tuesday evenings.

Likewise almost all the members of our association have put in their efforts in every field which had helped our association to grow. Here again we have to make special mention of some of our members like Shri T.S. Sundaram, for his Exhibition hall arrangements, and Shri S. Visvanathan, Shri R. Chittibabu, Shri Nemichand G. Chopra, Shri M. Lazar, Shri P. Chandrasekaran, Shri G.S. Kalidasan, C.G. Baskar, V.K. Mohan, R. Aravamudan, S.K. Lakshmanan, A.V. Radhakrishnan for their very active part towards fund raising and other works.

Whenever the Postmaster Generals in the Madras Circle conduct State Level Exhibitions our members have always given them a great helping hand. Our members conducted Schools of Philately just before TANAPEX '81, TANAPEX '85, TANAPEX '88 and TANAPEX '93 at the request of the Postmaster Generals. At present superceeding all that the present Chief Post Master General has very willingly accepted to be our Patron for the ECOPEX - 95 Stamp Exhibition and has given all the frame and other assistance required.

We had the honour of one of our members Shri V.N.S. Rau being invited to the Seminar on Philately sponsored by the Government of India, P & T Department in 1967, who later was nominated as a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of Government of India for a period of five years and he further served as a member of the Central P & T Advisory Council for a period of two years. He also had the unique honour to serve on the panel of Jury in every National and International Exhibitions in India. He was also the President of the Philatelic Congress of India from 1984 to 1985. He is 95 to-day and we wish him long life.

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das who is the backbone of our association is already in National Jury and has the good fortune of being nominated as a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of the Government of India for a period of two years from '89 to '91. A member of the governing council of Philatelic congress of India since its inception, was appointed commissioner for Bangkok - 93, SINGPEX-95 World Philatelic Exhibitions. At the regular monthly meetings he always kept the members informed about the latest trend in Philately.

We celebrated our Silver Jubilee in 1981 with a Philatelic Exhibition at Hamid Buildings for the members of the association only. Shri U. Mohan Rao, Chairman ECOPEX 95 an Industrialist and a Philanthropist by nature, with his extraordinary administrative capability, as Chairman of the Organising Committee during 1981, 1985, 1989 has been the guiding force as he is now also gave us the vision of owning a building for our Association in the immediate future by raising funds.

In 1985 our association held a Philatelic Exhibition SIPEX '85 for the International Year of the Youth. It was our long cherished dream to conduct a School of Philately to educate and encourage the spread of philately among the juniors and this dream could only be fulfilled in the International Year of the Youth when about 83 children attended the School of Philately

under the able Chairman Shri U. Mohan Rao.

Our members participated in many State, National and International Stamp Exhibitions held not only in India but also abroad winning laurels.

And now in 1995 we are proud to organise a Philatelic Exhibition ECOPEX '95 Madras for five days from 5 to 9 October 1995. This will be our eighth exhibition with entries from all over India.

The aim and objective of this exhibition is to promote Philately and in particular Thematic Philately - a major area covering the topic Ecology. There will be 200 to 250 frames on display. Where one will be able to see the MAGNIFICENT WILD LIFE and NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT as a whole.

Five attractively designed Special Cover are being brought out by the organisers and the Department of Posts will provide Special Cancellations on all the five days of the exhibition. Both the covers and cancellations are designed to suit the subject Ecology and will be a cherished collectors item.

The beautiful souvenir has been brought out to mark this wonderful occasion. It contains articles from leading Philatelists and Naturalists from all over the country besides other useful information for all.

We are thankful to Indian Bank, City Bank, Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board and NEPC-Micon Limited in sponsoring some of the promotional activities of ECOPEX-95.

Under the agile, active guidance of the young leading business magnates of the Madras city who spared no pains in the very many promotional activities of the Exhibition, we owe a debt of gratitude to Shri AJIT CHORDIA and Shri G. AMARCHAND for the success of the Ecopex 95.

G. Madan Mohan Das
M.T. Karunakaran

Secretaries
ECOPEX 95

General Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (GREV)

Article 1: Competitive Exhibitions

- 1.1 The F.I.P. promotes international philatelic exhibitions in accordance with its Statutes (Article 5 and 43-45) and the General Regulations of the F.I.P. for Exhibitions (GREX). The F.I.P. may extend its patronage to world exhibitions, its auspices to international exhibitions and its support to other exhibitions.
- 1.2 The principles defined in the following General Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (GREV) are applicable to all competitive exhibitions. They are intended to serve the Jury as regulations and as a guide to the collector for the development of the exhibit.
- 1.3 The GREV apply to all competitive classes at F.I.P. exhibitions.
- 1.4 The Special Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (SREV's) for each competitive class are based upon and developed from the GREV. The Commissions of F.I.P. may supplement or adopt these principles considering the peculiarities of their respective classes.

Article 2 : Competitive Exhibits

The limit of the frame space allocated at exhibitions as per Article 6 of the GREX does not normally allow the collector to display his entire collection. Therefore, he must select suitable material, which will ensure continuity and understanding of the subject and show the most relevant aspects of knowledge and condition.

- 2.2 The evaluation of exhibits will only take into consideration the material displayed.
- 2.3 The composition of an exhibit in the respective classes will be defined in the SREV.

Article 3 : Principles of Exhibit Composition

- 3.1 An exhibit shall consist solely of appropriate philatelic material.
- 3.2 Appropriate philatelic material is that which, for the purpose of transmitting mail or other postal communications, has been issued, intended for issue, or produced in the preparation for issue, used, or treated as valid for postage by governmental, local or private postal agencies, or by other duly commissioned or empowered authorities.
- 3.3 The exhibit shall show a clear concept of the subject treated, developed according to the characteristics of the respective competitive class, as defined by the SREV for that class. The exhibit shall be developed according to a well laid out plan as well as personal research. The title must agree with the contents of the exhibit. The concept shall be laid out in an introductory statement and must be written in one of the F.I.P. official languages.
The text of the exhibit should also be written in one of the F.I.P. official languages.
- 3.4 The material displayed should be fully consistent with the subject chosen. The selection should express the concept in the most appropriate manner, showing the level of understanding of the subject and the personal research of the exhibitor.

It should also include the fullest range of relevant philatelic material of the highest available quality.

- 3.5 The presentation and the accompanying text of the exhibit should be simple, tasteful and well balanced.

A short explanation is required when the material is not self explanatory or there is a need to illustrate special research.

Article 4 : Criteria for Evaluation

- 4.1 The evaluation of the exhibits is made by a jury, which will be constituted and shall perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of Section V of the GREX.

- 4.2 General criteria for the evaluation of competitive exhibits at F.I.P. exhibitions are as follows:

- Treatment
- Philatelic Importance
- Philatelic and related Knowledge, Personal Study and Research
- Condition and Rarity of material exhibited
- Presentation.

- 4.3 The criterion of "Treatment of the Exhibit" requires an evaluation of the completeness and correctness of the selected material made by the exhibitor to illustrate his chosen subject.

- 4.4 The criterion of "Philatelic Importance" requires an evaluation of philatelic significance of the subject chosen by the exhibitor, in terms of its scope, degree of difficulty of the subject, and the philatelic interest of the exhibit.

- 4.5 The criteria of "Philatelic and related Knowledge, Personal Study and Research" require the following evaluations:

Knowledge is the degree of knowledge of the exhibitor as expressed by the items chosen for display and their related comments; Personal Study is the proper analysis of the items chosen for display; Research is the presentation of new facts related to the chosen subject.

- 4.6 The criteria of "Condition and Rarity" require an evaluation of the quality of the displayed material considering the standard of the material that exists for the chosen subject, the rarity and the relative difficulty of acquisition of the selected material.

- 4.7 The criterion of "Presentation" requires an evaluation of the clarity of display, the text as well as the overall aesthetic balance of the exhibit.

Article 5 : Judging of Exhibits

- 5.1 The judging of an exhibit will be carried out in general accordance with Section V (Article 31-47) of the GREX.

- 5.2 Judging is based on the criteria explained in Art. 4 above. The following relative terms are presented to lead the jury to a balanced evaluation.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Treatment and Philatelic Importance | 30 |
| 2. Philatelic and related Knowledge Personal Study and Research | 35 |
| 3. Condition and Rarity | 30 |
| 4. Presentation | 5 |

Total 100

Exhibits will be evaluated by allocating points for each of the above criteria. These will be entered on score sheets of an approved format.

5.3 Prizes will be awarded according to Article 7 of the GREX.

5.4 Medals will be awarded as per the following table, based on the total of the relative terms obtained by the exhibit (ref.: Article 7.4 of the GREX).

Large Gold	95
Gold	90
Large Vermeil	85
Vermeil	80
Large Silver	75
Silver	70
Silver Bronze	65
Bronze	60

5.5 The Grand Prizes are awarded to the exhibits with the greatest philatelic merit, from among those exceeding the requirement of a large gold medal (ref.: 7.3 of GREX).

5.6 Special prizes may be placed at the disposal of the Jury in accordance with Article 7.5 of GREX.

The Jury may award these special prizes, at its discretion, to exhibits having received at least a large vermeil medal in appreciation of outstanding philatelic merits and exceptional material.

This should not create yet another intermediary medal level.

5.7 The Jury may express Felicitations, in addition to the medal awarded for exhibits distinguishing themselves by philatelic research or originality. Felicitations cannot be given to the same exhibit twice. (Ref.: Article 7.6 of the GREX).

5.8 The owner of an exhibit which has been downgraded by a Jury, because it contains faked and forged material not properly identified by him, will be duly notified through the national federation and the commissioner. This information should also be passed to the F.I.P. Commission for the Fight against Forgeries.

5.9 The provisions of Article 5 may varied as necessary for the Literature, Thematic and Youth Classes because of their nature. These variations will be shown in the SREV of the concerned classes.

Article 6 : Concluding Provisions

6.1 In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.

6.2 The General Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (GREV) have been approved by the 5th F.I.P. Congress on 5th November 1985 in Rome. They came into force on 5th November 1985 and were revised at the 61st F.I.P. Congress in Granada on 4th May 1992. The revised text will come into force on 1st January 1995.

Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions

Article 1 : Competitive Exhibitions

In accordance with Article 1.4 of the General Regulations of the F.I.P. for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (GREV), these Special Regulations have been developed to supplement those principles with regard to Thematic Exhibits.

Also refer to Guidelines to Thematic Regulations.

Article 2 : Competitive Exhibits

A thematic collection, of which the exhibit is a part, develops a theme according to the plan, demonstrating the best thematic and philatelic knowledge through the items chosen.

The dynamic and imaginative application of such knowledge results in the best possible selection and arrangement of the material and accuracy of the relevant thematic text.

Article 3 : Principles of Exhibit Composition

3.1 A thematic exhibit uses all types of related appropriate philatelic material. Non philatelic items cannot be admitted.

3.2 A thematic exhibit comprises the following thematic elements.

3.2.1 The Plan

The Plan defines the structure of the collection and of the exhibit, and its sub division into parts. It has to be correct, logical and balanced, and cover all aspects related to the title. Furthermore, it has to be fully consistent with the title chosen and should completely be structured according to thematic criteria.

- * be freely chosen in order to make the synthesis of a theme or an idea, or
- * derive naturally from the theme, for instance when the latter describes analytically organisations, institutions and recurrent events.

A plan based on a classification by issuing date, country or other geographical criteria, type of material, is not considered acceptable. The plan must be presented in a page at the beginning of the exhibit. It should detail the contents of the collection, its subdivisions, and the size of the chapters shown.

3.2.2. The development

The development means the elaboration of the theme in depth, aiming to achieve a creative and/or original elaboration of the same in full compliance with the plan.

Depth of development can be obtained only through a detailed analysis and synthesis of each aspect of the theme. Creativity means the personal development of new themes; originality means new aspects or new approaches of and to known themes.

The elaboration utilises the thematic information available from:

- the purpose of issue
- the primary and secondary elements of the design
- other postal characteristics.

A successful development requires

- a thorough knowledge of the chosen theme
- a high degree of philatelic knowledge (ref.: Article 4.3)

The thematic text must be correct, concise and relevant, to present the items shown and ensure the necessary thematic link.

3.2.3 The Philatelic material

Each item must be strictly related to the chosen theme and show its thematic information in the clearest way. In the case of cancelled documents, preference will be given to genuine postal usage conforming with contemporary postal rates.

Philatelic studies, whenever included, should blend with the thematic development and the fluidity of the elaboration of the exhibit must not be affected.

Article 4 : Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits

The general criteria, as specified in Article 4 of the GREV, are applied according to the peculiarities of the thematic exhibits.

4.1 The criterion of plan requires the evaluation of the structure of the collection, as reflected in the exhibit.

The plan will be evaluated considering the :

- presence and adequacy of the plan page
- consistency of the plan with the title
- correct, logical and balanced subdivision in parts
- coverage of all the parts necessary to develop the theme
- creativity and originality of the approach.

4.2 The criterion of development requires the evaluation of its compliance with the plan, and of thematic research and thematic importance.

Thematic research covers :

- personal study
- scope, depth and balance
- creativity and originality
- thematic knowledge, expressed by
 - ◆ the correct use of material
 - ◆ the related text
 - ◆ specific connection between the above.

Thematic importance denotes the degree of difficulty of developing the theme.

4.3 The criterion of philatelic knowledge requires the evaluation of the general and the specific philatelic knowledge, and the philatelic importance.

- General philatelic knowledge covers
- full compliance with the rules of philately
 - suitability of the postal documents
 - correctness of the philatelic text, when required.

- Specific philatelic knowledge covers
- the presence of the widest possible range of philatelic material
 - the balanced use of the above
 - personal philatelic study and research

Philatelic importance relates to the philatelic significance of the material.

4.4 Condition and rarity (ref.: GREV. Article 4.6)

4.5 Presentation (ref.: GREV. Article 4.7).

Article 5 : Judging the Exhibits

5.1 The thematic exhibits will be judged by the approved specialists in their respective field and in accordance with the section V (Article 31 and 47 of GREX - ref.: GREV. Article 5.1).

5.2 For thematic exhibits, the following relative terms are presented to lead the Jury to a balanced evaluation (ref.: GREV. Article 5.2)

- Plan	20
- Development (Treatment and Importance)	30
- Philatelic Knowledge, Study and Research	20
- Condition and Rarity	25
- Presentation	5
Total	100

Article 6 : Concluding Provisions

6.1 In the event of any discrepancies in the text arising from translation, the English text shall prevail.

6.2 These Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions have been approved by the 54th F.I.P. Congress on 5th November 1985 in Rome and were revised at the 61st F.I.P. Congress in Granada on 4th May 1992. The revised regulation will be applicable as from 1st January 1995.

Guidelines for Judging Thematic Exhibits

Article 1: Competitive Exhibitions

These Guidelines, together with the Special Regulations for the evaluation of thematic exhibits (SREV), combine the most advanced level of knowledge and expertise of exhibitors and specialists in thematic philately. The two documents provide the relevant information for:

- the composition of the exhibit by the collector.
- the evaluation of the exhibit by the Juror,
- provision of advice by the expert.

The SREV for thematic exhibits offer the collector considerable liberty of construction within the framework of the established rules.

With these Regulations, the previous sub-division of the thematic class into "thematic" and "subject" collections becomes obsolete.

Article 2 : Competitive Exhibits

The essence of thematic philately requires the balanced and best possible use of both the thematic and philatelic aspects of the material. An exhibit which is entered in a competitive exhibition should, therefore contain the most suitable material which contributes both to the development of the chosen theme and its philatelic significance.

The pages selected should :

- give a synopsis of the chosen theme as a whole, or
- show in depth specific sections of the collection as an example, without losing the overall essence of the theme.

In both cases, the coherence and the continuity of the chosen theme must be observed.

Article 3 : Principles of Exhibit Composition

3 Appropriate Philatelic Material

Each philatelic item, which fulfills the requirements stated by the GREV (see para 3.2.3 hereafter), and which, at the same time, is thematically appropriate, can be used. Furthermore the thematic information which it presents must have postal connotation (see para 3.2.2.)

3.2 The Elements of a Thematic Exhibit

3.2.1 The Plan

In a thematic collection an appropriate, well organized plan must show the clear concept of the theme.

The title and the plan taken together should reflect the specific characteristics of the chosen theme.

The plan should define the structure of the collection and of the exhibit (a selection of the collection) by means of rational classification in main chapters and their sub-divisions,

It should provide a clear and intelligible insight into the whole theme, and be consistent with the title.

The plan should be more than just a simple listing. It should detail both direct and cross references, developments, and special characteristics of the chosen theme. It should include all the different aspects of the theme, and cover the largest scope compatible with it. In this respect, one should avoid limiting or concentrating the development of the plan to only one or a few countries, as far as the chosen theme allows it.

Characteristics of the Plan

The plan is the free choice of the collector, who may decide to analyze a specific theme or present a thesis according to his knowledge and/or cultural and philatelic background. It is possible to demonstrate original development of a theme by the construction of a creative plan.

The sequence of the plan may follow a time-related classification (historical, evolutionary), a subject-related (scientific, systematic, organizational, economic, etc.) or one based on other criteria (Importance, etc.)

A logical plan requires adherence to the above definitions. In particular, the sequence of the main chapters and their sub-divisions must have a clear rationale, without superfluous or misplaced chapters.

Correct means accurate, scientifically reliable and sound.

Balanced means that the same importance should be given to the different sections in accordance with the thematic significance and the available material.

Themes related to Organizations and Institutions (e.g. Red Cross, League of Nations, Council of Europe) repetitive events (e.g. Stamps Day, Olympic Games) etc. can be sub-divided according to their structure, type of organization, and individual events following thematically time-or-place-related classifications. However, the aims, tasks, results and effects of the activities of such organizations or events should be clearly shown.

The plan should consist only of thematic classifications, without any general chapters (e.g. "Miscellaneous", "Appendix", etc.) Furthermore, sub-divisions by issuing dates and/or country, or by type of material (e.g. "meters", "Postal Stationery", etc.) or by purpose of issue (e.g. "Anniversaries", etc.) should be avoided. Such items should be positioned according to their thematic content, and the same applies to special philatelic studies (see para 3.2.3).

If the exhibitor decides to show a self-contained section of his collection, the plan and the title of the exhibit must be consistent with that section.

The Plan Page

The plan has to be divided in such detail that the essential structure of the theme and its sub-divisions are clearly seen. More detailed sub-divisions, which can assist the understanding of the exhibit, should, in principle, be included only on the individual pages.

A numerical classification (e.g. decimal, legal systems) may be used if it helps to make the exhibit easier to understand. It should be limited to the major divisions of the plan. Experience has shown that a three digits/letters system is sufficient.

The plan, presented at the beginning of the exhibit, is the best possible introduction for the understanding of the theme. It cannot be replaced by a literary description.

An introductory title page, when shown, should highlight the theme. It can be combined with the plan as long as not the detriment of the plan.

The title and the plan must be presented in one of the official F.I.P. languages, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

The number of pages shown for each sub-divisions of the exhibit should be indicated adjacent to the number of pages available in the collection, so that it is possible to see the relationship between the exhibit and the whole collection. This unsubstantiated information will not, however, be used for evaluation purposes. The content of the plan page should be brought up to date each time the exhibit is presented.

3.2.2 **Development of the Theme**

The plan and the development represent the two aspects of an interlinked process, based on the personal study and research by the collector on both the theme and the material. A deeper knowledge of the theme enables one to increase the number of facts and details and to look for additional items to illustrate them; a deeper knowledge of the material allows one to identify new pieces which often must be justified through further study of the theme.

The **depth of development** of the theme is demonstrated by the representation of connections, cross references, ramifications and effects within the framework of the selected theme, as well as through the display of unusual or totally unknown material related to the theme.

The thematic qualification and appropriateness of the material must be clearly demonstrated.

Originality refers to the successful elaboration of new themes, or new aspects of, or new approaches to known themes, or new classifications and imaginative, effective description.

A thorough knowledge of both the theme and the appropriate material (analysis), is a prerequisite for the best possible thematic development. The skillful choice of the material and its correct positioning and ordering are necessary to ensure a proper understanding of the successive context shown.

The Thematic Arrangement

The development is demonstrated in the exhibit by the correct thematic arrangement, which shows the relationship between the items used and the theme, ie.:

- presence of the sub-divisions, preferably at the top of the pages, in accordance with the plan.
- possible utilization of the fine/finer sub-divisions in form of titles and sub-titles, that go beyond the divisions of the plan, to provide an easier understanding of the content of the page.
- correct relationship between all the items shown on the same page.
- selection of the most suitable items for each thematic detail described
- correct and short text, but sufficient to provide an appropriate illustration of the thematic contribution of the items

It is recommended that the text should :

- demonstrate the logical sequence in the development of the plan
- give appropriate descriptions of the thematic details of stamps and documents
- avoid thematic descriptions that are not related, or are related only indirectly, to the material shown, since they weaken the thematic development.

The Thematic Information

The development utilizes the thematic information directly represented by the appearance and/or purpose of issue of the items.

It also utilize the thematic information that can be shown as a result of a deeper analysis. In this sense, one can also include :

- for the purpose of issue.
- issues which are due to change in political relations.
- issues which document the spirit of the time
- functions of the postal service which have thematic significance (e.g. railway, telegraph, newspaper stamps, etc.)
- in addition to the main and the secondary design of the item :
- the text, art style of illustration and similar peculiarities
- the material on which the items are printed e.g. granite (silk thread), banknote paper, war maps etc.
- the watermark design and perforation
- any text or illustration on margins, gutters, tabs, etc.

The information utilized for the developed of the theme must have postal connotations. In this sense, to distinguish between postal and private origins for stamps, postal stationery, and other documents the information must have been :

- initiated by the postal service, or
- introduced by the postal service (e.g. advertising appendices, marginal descriptions, postal stationery illustrations), or
- approved by the postal service (e.g. postal stationery to private order).

Additional printing or surcharges introduced privately after the sale of the items are not to be included.

Cancellations can be of interest because of the specific meaning of a place name : alternatively, they must contain adequate thematic information (e.g. advertising text, illustration). In addition to data concerning the place and/or the date. A pre-philatelic postmark does not document the birth place of a person, nor is the postmark date relevant when related to a special event which happened on the same day (unless other thematic elements on the documents or cancellation are relevant to the theme).

Private vignettes, postmarks and decorative overprints as well as sender and addressee data represent private information and should not be used for thematic development. In

exceptional cases, they can be considered as a part of the document (but not for their direct thematic content) as long as they are relevant to describe a specific postal route or significant thematic association. Where a sender or addressee is entitled to special postal privileges (e.g. reduced or free postage) as a result of his or her position, condition or status (e.g. forces or official mail etc.) such information can be included as thematically relevant. The indication of reduced (or free) postage or the service postmarks, or equivalent markings of the postal route; provided sufficient evidence.

3.2.3 **The Philatelic Material**

The GREV.(Article 3.2) defines appropriate material as having the "Purpose of transmitting mail or other postal communications". this gives the collector the opportunity to selecting items with the following characteristics :

Type of emissions

- postal items (stamps, stamp booklets, postal stationery, franking meters, etc.) and their modifications (overprints, surcharges, perfins, etc.) Modifications which do not relate to the theme of the original postal items, and which do not themselves relate to that theme, should not be included.
- cancellations (ordinary, slogan, commemorative, and other special postmarks)
- other items used in postal operations, such as registration labels, postal route labels and markings, supplementary markings or labels (e.g. censorship, disinfection, crash mail, etc.) mail delivery and shipping dockets, reply coupons, forwarding agents markings, etc. Where applicable, these items should be on the relevant document
- varieties
- items "intended for issue, or produced in the preparation for issue". e.g. sketches, proofs, etc.

Time frame:

Postal material from the pre-philatelic era, through the classic period, up to current issues and documents.

The use of common stamps and cover, including very recent issues, can be justified if they best represent important thematic details.

Postal function :

In addition to the normal transmission of mail, the following may be included; specific types, e.g. (postage free) service - and - military - post (including Airgraphs and V-mail); maritime mail, railway mail, air mail of any type, prisoner-of-war and concentration camp mail; small parcel and parcel post (and accompanying documents).

- stamps, marks and/or cards for free postage (e.g. by authorities, military)
- postal payment service
- different forms of post automation
- private post, authorised or tolerated by the government post, or active in total absence of a State Post.

Under "other postal communications" are included other forms of postal services, like pneumatic post, telegrams, electronic mail, etc

The following items are not appropriate :

- fantasy issues from non-existent postal territories, issues of exiles without postal service.
- private additional cancellations, which are applied by a sender or a supplier before mailing the documents
- picture postcards;
- private decorations on envelopes and cards;
- Vignettes (advertising labels), which are of private nature, issued for advertising or financing purposes. These are not to be confused with vignettes which refer to a specific postal service (e.g. air mail), or to the authorisation of a special postal route, or which give postal privileges (e.g. military or prisoner mail in some countries), all of which are fully appropriate and may be included.

Border-line material always has to be supported by a thorough philatelic jurisdiction within the framework of an already highly specialized exhibit.

A philatelic description is only necessary when a specific characteristic of the item is not recognizable with average philatelic knowledge, or a philatelic study has to be described.

Section criteria

The criterion of postal character implies that, within the principles for the appropriate material, some reference levels for the selection of the items should be established. Exhibitors should look for the best ones, if they need to show inferior pieces because of lack of availability; one of their major objectives should be to replace them as quickly as possible. Preference and greater importance should be given to :

- issues which have an information content bearing a direct relation to the issuing country from a political, historical, cultural, economic and/or similar standpoint, as opposed to speculative issues, which exploit the "fashion trends" in thematic philately (these dubious issues can in principle be totally ignored).
- normal issues as opposed to additional parallel issues (e.g. imperforate stamps and souvenir sheets), especially of recent years
- genuinely cancelled stamps, as opposed to cancelled to order ones.
- genuinely transported commercial mail with relevant cancellations as opposed to souvenir documents and any similar items created for collector's e.g. decorated FDCs (even when issued by the postal service), maximum cards, etc.
- genuinely transported items with correct postage and relevant thematic cancellations, often with underfranked postage, or, even worse blank cancellations (unless due to an official free postage, privilege).
- documents with individual, commercial addresses, as opposed to covers and cards received as a result of a subscription.
- correct postage frankings as opposed to frankings substantially greater due to philatelic reasons (e.g. complete sets).
- meter frankings with appropriate postage, as opposed to the "000" favour cancellation.

The relevant rarity or other unusual characteristics of proofs, essays, varieties and similar items, can increase the philatelic importance of the exhibit. Common varieties, e.g. minor colour nuances, easily acquired colour essays, etc. do not add to the exhibit and are likely to affect adversely the thematic development.

When printing varieties, surcharges, and overprinted items no longer present the relevant thematic information, the normal item should be also shown.

The use of maximum cards should be limited to a few, significant items, chiefly to make more obvious the information on the stamps. In addition to the necessary appropriateness of subject, cancellation and date, these items should have a theme-related cancellation.

Philatelic Studies

In most thematic areas there is philatelic material that, without great thematic differentiation, presents a large number of very important philatelic variants. 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 exceptional material can be properly shown.

In order to keep the balance, the objective of these studies should not be completeness, but the representation of the most significant philatelic peculiarities. The extension of the studies should be proportional to the level of the specialization of the exhibit. However, the development of the theme must not be affected, and the thematic text shall be carried on within the study, without interruption.

Philatelic text

A philatelic description is only necessary when a specific characteristic of the item is not easily recognizable, or a philatelic study has to be described. This description should just satisfy this need; boosting definitions, in the style of auction-catalogues, are neither adequate nor acceptable.

Article 4: Criteria for Evaluating Exhibits

The previous paragraphs explain the principles of composition of the exhibit which correspond directly to the criteria for its evaluation. To avoid repetition, the comments on these criteria are therefore limited to some additional notes.

4.1 Plan and Size

The size will be evaluated by comparing the one of the exhibit with the potential one that can be achieved through a very comprehensive and complete plan and a thorough and deep development.

4.2 Development

To evaluate the originality of the thematic research, account will be taken of previous studies of the theme, in order to see how much the development can take advantage of available thematic and philatelic literature, catalogues and document research. This can be then compared with the personal research and study in terms of comprehensiveness, size and depth of the theme.

The thematic importance is expressed by the degree of difficulty of the development, on the basis of the scope of the theme and the related availability of the material.

4.3 Philatelic Knowledge

To evaluate the philatelic knowledge, within the possibilities of a given theme, importance is given to the presence of all the different philatelic types of material, and their relative balanced utilization. This relates in particular to the attention to old (pre-philatelic

and classic) documents as well as to modern material, and to the use of items from different geographical areas.

Greater recognition should be given to material which

- has not yet been researched for that theme, or where there has been very little research.
- refers to an uncommon area of collecting
- has a thematic qualification which is not immediately obvious and has been discovered by the exhibitor.

The philatelic importance of an exhibit is demonstrated by the degree of difficulty of the material available in terms of its philatelic significance. A development based on material of high philatelic interest (which does not necessarily mean of greater rarity) is more appreciated than one for which only common material is available.

4.4 **Condition and Rarity**

Condition is based on the usual overall criteria used in philately. For modern material good condition is an essential requirement.

Cancellations must be clear, and allow the stamp design, where relevant, to be clearly seen. Rarity is based on objective criteria such as quantity of issue, difficulty of acquisition and the presence of exceptional items.

It is essential that varieties, proofs, essays, strips, blocks, etc., are rarer than the original piece for them to increase the philatelic level and to avoid the exhibit becoming just a specialized philatelic study.

It is obvious that items which, despite being very rare, have no or insufficient relationship to the theme, should not be included in the evaluation.

4.5 **Presentation**

The efforts of the exhibitor are demonstrated by the arrangement of the items and the text on appropriate exhibition pages. White or pale coloured sheets, which do not detract from the material, are preferred.

Presentation techniques (e.g. the mounting and framing of stamps and documents) should be consistent and neat throughout the pages.

Presentation of material

An individual page shall not be overcrowded or too empty. To avoid overcrowding, it is sufficient, in principle, to show only one item out of a long set (stamp, or postal stationery, or cancellation, etc.) with the same design, the use of several items with exactly the same design should be limited to special circumstances, e.g.

- reasons of symmetry
- balance in the text
- specific thematic significance
- philatelic significance

This does not apply when the same design is common to different types of material (stamps, and/or imprint/the illustration of postal stationery, and/or special cancellation etc.) or when the items belong to several countries.

Sometimes the same item can be used to make several thematic points (e.g. because of its secondary designs). It is suggested that, to avoid repetition, the item is shown in different conditions, (e.g. single, variety, proof, on cover with a relevant thematic cancellation, etc).

In the case of very common items, overcrowding of the page with documents and postal stationery items can be avoided by showing the essential thematic and philatelic parts through cuttings in the page ("windows"). This often represents a viable alternative to the trimming documents.

Larger document can sometimes adversely affect the thematic balance; it should be considered, therefore, if they present a greater rarity and condition than a single stamp or a cancellation on piece.

In principle, the overlapping of documents cannot always be avoided. The visual results are less disturbing for normal, commercial, service, and official correspondence, and in case of some themes (e.g. organizations, events, specific history, etc) rather than others (e.g. artistic or esthetic themes).

The choice between mint or used stamps is left to the exhibitor. From a visual point of view, it is recommended that an exhibit consists of only one or the other. When this is not feasible for philatelic reasons (e.g. a stamp which is by far rarer in the other condition), or of difficulty of acquisition, at least the mixing of mint and used stamps on the same page should be avoided. However, the inclusion of postally travelled items on a page does not imply that every stamp on the same page must be used. Postal stationery can be shown mint or used, according to their philatelic importance and to the taste of the exhibitor. They must not be cut. Furthermore, the "windowing" of stationery items, should be strictly limited to very common items selected because of their cancellation and should never be used when the item is shown because of its imprint and/or side illustration.

Only for justified philatelic reasons should the same stamp be shown by itself and on cover or card. In principle it is sufficient to present the latter, provided it has also a relevant thematic cancellation.

Stamps used for describing the development should not be shown on documents without a relevant thematic cancellation, unless the document has a clear philatelic significance. The exhibitor should avoid showing covers where too many different stamps are not related to the theme (e.g. a set of which only one or two items are relevant).

Text

The repetition of the title of the collection on each page is only a waste of space. The headings on the page should identify the arrangement according to the sub-divisions of the plan and summarize the content of the page; where necessary, this can be achieved by presenting more detailed sub-divisions. when numbering system is adopted for the plan page, it should also be used throughout all the pages.

Photocopies or photographs of the reverse side of a document (showing e.g. the stamp imprint of postal stationery or postmarks) may be used if important information can be presented only this way! Simple and effective maps and diagrams may be used in a few exceptional cases as a supplement to the text, where they help towards a better understanding of the development and allow the text to be kept brief.

Article 5 : Judging

The Jury shall make full use of the points breakdown, as in Article 5.2 of the SREV.

It is strongly recommended that the thematic Judges complete an evaluation form designed to guide them towards a thorough and consistent judgement.

The F.I.P. Thematic Commission will provide a reference form.

The presence of faked, forged or repaired items which are not clearly marked as such, will cause the downgrading of the exhibit. Collectors are therefore recommended to have any doubtful item expertized before selecting it for the exhibit.

Stamp Collecting Attractions

Shri G. Madan Mohan Das

When we talk about stamp collecting, those who have never been exposed to it get a vague idea that the world's most popular avocation is simply a matter of filling the blank spaces in an album with haphazard abandon. That is one reason why non-collectors sometimes look with disdain at those who know what philately is all about, thinking it is just the innocuous pastime of only children or adults who are not intelligent enough to engage in "something more practical."

But how absolutely wrong they are!

There is n't another avocation known to mankind which is more pleasureable, recreational- and, EDUCATIONAL. As one who devoted a long life time to the collection of the world's postage stamps, I can assure readers of this wordage that this is absolute fact. I began the hobby a few months before I entered primary school. While taking shirts and collars to the Chinese laundryman for my father, I was intrigued by some stamps on a letter on old gentleman's counter. I could not read the queer characters of the inscriptions, but those green, red and blue stamps were fascinating. One had a picture of a harvester in coolie hat, reaping rice in a paddy in front of a temple; the others had pictures of a junk sailing across the waves.

It was not only the stamps that attracted my attention. It was the fact that here was a letter that had been mailed on the other side of the world- from distant China, a place which in those pre-

World War I days was as far from INDIA as the Moon, Mars and Venus seen today. So when I was given the envelope I must have been the proudest and happiest youngster in all my neighbourhood.

Other shopkeepers subsequently gave me envelopes and stamps they received in the mails from Germany, France and England and that started me on the road to becoming a real stamp collector.

Fortunately, my educated father knew what it is all about and encouraged me in my new found hobby. In addition he helped me in identifying stamps and whence they originated, aiding me in putting them into an inexpensive paper note book, besides giving me other important advice. One of the first things he urged me was that stamps could teach me many things if I but would carefully examine the pictures on them. Every picture used for a postage stamp design, my father explained, had a very definite reason for being there. A nation usually boasts of its industries, way of life, famous heroes, culture and arts, so proudly depicts them on its postal paper.

A very famous Canadian Governor General once told-"POSTAGE STAMPS ARE LIKE CLEAR WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH A COLLECTOR CAN SEE FAR AWAY PLACES AND WATCH HOW THEIR CITIZENS LIVE, WORK AND ENJOY THEMSELVES."

That is the secret of STAMP COLLECTING. They haven't the foggiest

idea of what interesting and often fantastic stories their pictures have to tell. Ever so many people know only the market price of stamps. Take the NICARAGUAN stamp issued in 1937 showing a map of Central America. The artist who make the map knew more about drawing than he did about cartography, for in making it he shows as part of his native Nicaragua, some territory which Guatemala, considered its own. When letters franked with these stamps reached Guatemala, some angry students marched on the Nicaraguan Embassy in protest. Violence erupted and before long about a dozen persons lay dead in the streets and hundreds had been injured. All because of stamp!

It's not only a stamp's picture that gives the collector so much interesting knowledge. Stamps also teach geography and history.

By checking an atlas each time one gets a new stamp from some different nation, the young collector soon learns where the land is, by what neighbours it is surrounded and what are its capital and major cities. I recall that when I was only about 11 or 12 years old, I took part in a contest and was the only one of more than 200 boys who could accurately identify the capital of every country on earth!

President Roosevelt made a practice of checking his atlas to locate cities whose post marks were on stamps collected. That stood him in good stead when America entered the War.

Late Ernest A. Kehr who had the privilege of knowing FDR and often "talking stamps" with him in the White House and Hyde Park, FDR once told

him that early in the war he was discussing plans for sending American troops to the Pacific to combat the Japanese, with his top military and naval aides as well as high officers from New Zealand and Australia. Very important was the selection of a staging base and Walter Nash, New Zealand's deputy prime minister suggested a certain Pacific Island. President Roosevelt said that this might be OK, but he thought that Mangareva would be better because it was many times nearer the target.

None of the officials present had ever heard of Mangareva so naturally were surprised that the President of the United States would know about it. They called for charts and checked them. Sure enough, Mangareva was exactly where FDR said it was.

I remember a history examination I was taking during my high school day. One question asked for the territories which united to form the kingdom of ROMANIA. After failing to remember my class room instruction or homework, I called upon my stamps. I visualized the Romania pages of my album and remembered the earliest stamps came from Wallachia and Moldavia, and that is what I wrote as my answer.

Days after the examination our teacher told us that since she had not touched on the subject, no student would be penalised for failure to supply an answer to this question on the examination. She did say I was the only student who answered correctly and that I would be given extra five marks.

One can never tell when some bit of information one learns from stamps will come in handy at some future time. Not

long ago a TV quiz contestant was asked a tricky question about the first steamboat to cross the Atlantic. I answered correctly without hesitation, then added that I had a stamp which commemorated this event.

Of course one doesn't have to own a stamp collection to accumulate a mass of facts. An encyclopedia can do the same thing. But there is one big difference. Reading an encyclopedia is hard, tedious and often dull work. Learning from stamps is FUN because one is enjoying a hobby while picking up useful bits of information. So, when you are adding a new stamp to your album, take a good look to it. The artist who made it had reasons for the pictures he selected for its design. If the picture is not self-explanatory, take some time out to read a book that will give you the biography of the person portrayed, or a description of a scene. Once you know what the stamp tells you, you will not only add to your own knowledge, but that stamp becomes something more than a small piece of pretty, colourful paper.

When you approach stamp collecting that way you will discover that the album is a treasure house of information and a companion for the rest of your life. Some people might tell you that a valuable stamp collection is one composed only of very rare and costly stamps. That is not true at all. What good is a stamp collection if all its owner knows is only the price tag of its specimens? On the other hand, one composed of only common, inexpensive stamps can be extremely precious if its owner allows himself to be taught by their pictures.

Once you have learned as much as

you can from your own album of Indian stamps, let me suggest that you continue by learning more about foreign countries in the same way. You would be surprised how well you will become acquainted with lands and peoples beyond India's vast borders all over the world.

One more piece of advice. When you start collecting stamps you will hear a good deal about mint or unused stamps being more valuable than cancelled ones. Don't you believe it.

It is true that they may COST more. But cost doesn't determine VALUE. The true value of your stamps will be represented by what pleasure, satisfaction and knowledge your stamps can give you and in this respect a cancelled stamp tells you as much - or more-than an unused one.

In the first place, used stamps are generally much easier to obtain. With a little diligence and effort you can obtain such specimens without cost from business firms and friends who get lot of mail from India and foreign countries without spending a paisa. Such duplicates as you get in this way can be used to swap with other collectors. For the first 15 years I was a collector I got all of my stamps in this way. And before I ever spent money for additional ones I had built a collection of more than 20,000 different stamps of the whole world!

There is another reason why I collected used stamps. In my opinion (and that is shared by many other collectors) a postage stamp was made to pay postage on mail. Until it has done its duty it is merely a piece of coloured paper. It's pretty much like buying a good book, then putting it on a shelf without ever

reading it. Moreover, by reading the post mark you can learn exactly where it was put on a letter that was carried by the postal service.

The most important reason I prefer postally used stamps is that so very many countries- especially those in Africa and Asia that received their Independence within the last 20 years -hire professional promoters to design, produce and sell their "stamps" to dealers and collectors rather than for real postal service.

Ghana, Togo, the Maldive Islands and Yemen, for example, issue hundreds of fancy colourful and odd shaped stickers even though very few people (natives) of those lands even use them on mail because they are illiterate or have friends to whom they want to send letters.

In addition there are places-particularly in Arabia- that issue stamps (through New York, Beirut, London or Paris exploiters) even though they don't have any postal service at all. All these stickers that look like stamps are made for sale (at high prices) to unsuspecting and gullible collectors. There are thousands of stamps around, that have been legitimately issued by genuine nations like India, the United States, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Norway, and scores of others. You can devote years of your energies to getting such real postage stamps, so why waste time and money to buy what the experts call "philatelic junk or wall paper?"

With these few bits of advice, I hope that you will have good deal of fun, pleasure and learning, just as I have enjoyed for more than half a century.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU !

Thematics Exhibits

By Dilip Shah

The stamp collecting is a hobby that helps to facilitate a deeper awareness of culture. A stamp reflects the history, politics, social customs, nature and art of a country.

Now with the introduction of the state of art in this hobby, a scientific approach becomes necessary when it has bifurcated itself into 10 disciplines each requiring different approach to built upon exhibits.

Of all the disciplines of philately, the most interesting is 'Thematic', because it does not limit the choice of philatelic items to be included as do other disciplines of philately such as Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Postal Stationery etc.

Every exhibit is a story by itself and should demonstrate logic and clarity with bravery of thoughts. It should have a beginning, a central theme and a logical end. The broader the scope of an exhibit, the shallower it will be philatally.

To define, it should be a collection of stamps and other philatic items that tells a story about a chosen theme. For example, Birds, Ships, Children etc. In thematic collection one will see all variety of philatelic material from all over the world because the theme is the main purpose of the exhibit and not a particular piece of item.

Collecting thematically is the most challenging hobby which is absorbing, exciting, difficult and comprehensive. It

involves research, presentation, story telling and continuous study of philately.

For thematic collector, stamps may be the basic item but one needs to study and make use of its numerous philatelic elements and variation such as design, drawings, essays, proofs, specimens etc. Different types or formats of stamps and watermark varieties related to the particular theme may be used.

One also needs postal stationery such as imprinted cards, envelopes, aerogrammes etc. and covers with appropriate stamps or postmarks including registered, airmail, and censored mail to domestic/foreign destinations.

Now it should be pointed out here that a thematic collection for enjoyment is quite different from an exhibit prepared for an exhibition. Several items which may be included in private collection may not be suitable for being shown in an entry for exhibition purposes.

A stamp, cover or other item might improve the collection in your opinion, but in exhibition where judgement will take place, there are rules to which one must conform and this is the difference between collecting as a hobby and exhibiting for evaluation in an exhibition.

It is the purpose of this seminar to point out what is involved in exhibiting and evaluation of thematic exhibits. There is certainly more incentive in thematic collection for exhibition as it adds to the challenge and enjoyment.

Judging of Exhibits

For thematic exhibits, the following relative terms are presented to lead the Jury to a balanced evaluation:

1. Plan	20
2. Development (Treatment & Importance)	30
3. Philatelic Knowledge, Study & Research	20
4. Condition and rarity	25
5. Presentation	5

The Jury shall make use of the above points/marks breakdown which are applicable wef 1 Jan.95.

Plan 20 Marks

The Plan defines the structure of the exhibit and its sub-division into parts. In a thematic collection an appropriate, well organised plan must show the clear concept of the theme and exhibit. The plan should define structure of the exhibit by means of rational classification in main chapters and their sub-divisions. It should provide a clear insight into the whole theme and be consistent with the title.

The plan should detail both direct and cross reference developments and special characteristics of the chosen theme. It is possible to demonstrate original development of a theme by construction of a creative plan. Particularly the sequence of the main chapters and their sub-divisions must have a clear rational. The plan has to be divided in such detail that the essential structure of the theme and its sub-divisions are clearly seen.

The plan presented at the beginning

of exhibit is the best possible introduction for the understanding of the theme and the exhibit. An introductory title page, when shown, should highlight the theme. Preferably it should be combined with the plan. If the exhibitor decides to show a self contained section of his collection, the plan and the title of the Exhibit must be consistent with that section.

The content of the plan page must be brought upto date each time the exhibit is presented.

Development - 30 Marks

The development means elaborating the theme in depth. The plan and the development represent the two aspects of an interlinked process based on personal study and research by the collector of both the theme and the material. The depth of the development of the theme is demonstrated by the representation of connections, cross-references and effects within the frame work of the selected theme, as well as display of totally unknown material related to the theme.

ORIGINALITY refers to the successful elaboration of new themes, or new aspects of effective description to known themes. The elaboration utilises the thematic information available from the

- Purpose of issue
- The primary and secondary elements of the design
- Other Postal characteristics
- Avoid thematic descriptions that are not related or related only indirectly, since they "weaken" the thematic development.

The development utilises the thematic information directly represented. The information thus utilised must have postal connotations. In this regard the philatelic item must have been initiated by the Postal services.

OR

Introduced by the postal services (e.g. advertising, marginal inscriptions, cachets etc.)

OR

Approved by the Postal Service (e.g. Postal Stationary printed to private order) cancellations can also be of interest. They must contain adequate thematic information.

Private Postmarks and decorative overprints as well as sender and addressee data represent private information and, "should not be used for thematic developments". Thematic importance denotes the degree of difficulty of developing the theme.

Philatelic Knowledge, Study and Research - 20 Marks

The criterion of the philatelic knowledge requires the evaluation of the general and specific knowledge, and the philatelic importance.

General Philatelic knowledge includes

- a) Full compliance with theme
- b) Suitability of the Postal documents
- c) Correctness of Philatelic text

Specific Philatelic knowledge includes

- a) The presence of the widest possible range of Philatelic material.

- b) Balanced use of the material.
- c) Personal Philatelic study and research
- d) Philatelic importance relates to the Philatelic significance of the material.

Philatelic Studies

In most thematic areas there is philatelic material that presents a large number of very important philatelic varieties. In order to keep the balance, the objective of these studies should not be taken as complete but the representation of the most significant philatelic peculiarities. The development of these must not be affected by the extensive studies and thematic text should be carried on within the study without interruption.

Research

Greater recognition should be given to material which

- a) has not yet been researched for that theme, or where there has been very little research.
- b) refers to uncommon areas of collecting
- c) has a thematic qualification which is not immediately obvious and has been discovered by the exhibitor.

Condition and rarity - 25 marks

1. Condition is based on the usual overall criteria used for other disciplines of Philately. For modern material good condition is an essential requirement.
2. Cancellations must be clear, and allow the stamp design where relevant, to be clearly seen.

3. Rarity is based on objective criteria such as quantity of issue, difficulty of acquisition and presence of exceptional items.
4. It is obvious that items which, despite being very rare, have no or insufficient relationship to the theme, should not be included in the evaluation.

Presentation - 5 Marks

The word "Presentation" is usually misunderstood. Presentation is not just how pretty the exhibit looks or how neat it appears. Presentation also involves the subject treatment, in other words the story that is being told, including the content, the stamps and covers that are in the exhibit, as well as the overall appearance of the exhibit. If the exhibitor can avoid a defective appearance in his display, then he will capture the Judge's attention more readily. Good exhibit appearance, also stimulates the impression that individual has put together a fine collection; he has fine material, he knows and appreciates what he has, and he has provided the care that the material deserves. The exhibitor should keep in his mind the following points while preparing his exhibits.

A balanced, neat and clean, properly displayed exhibit will create a good impression. Write up should be easy to read and follow and pages should have properly been presented. The album pages used must be essentially uniform of one make and should not be toned or old looking. Most common practice, we have noticed is the usage of several kinds of album pages within an exhibit or using very old pages, combined with recent excellent white sheets creating an

imbalance. Such practice must be avoided.

Usage of any coloured mounts will have to be with extreme care. Uniformity of extra borders must be observed. It is safer to use transparent mounts, which give a neat and good appearance.

Titles, write up should be uniform throughout. An individual page shall not be overcrowded or too empty.

Unnecessary pictures, illustrations, have to be avoided. Balanced placing of items is important and the pattern adopted should be uniform throughout to give good impression that full care is taken for presentation.

The exhibit is put together for a purpose. It has a point to prove or something to demonstrate, so it is essentially a story illustrated with stamps and covers.

The aim of an exhibit is to attract the viewer or the judge to study it and to become interested in the subject being presented. Thus it must appeal to viewer and, one would hope, to educate himself.

The prime intent is to accomplish all three of these things:-

- to attract
- to interest
- to inform

The exhibit that succeeds in this will be properly rewarded.

In general I have tried to explain norms of Thematic Exhibits. Recently the F.I.P. has stipulated the revised General and Special Regulations for the evaluation of exhibits effective from 01.01.1995. The Hyderabad Philatelic

and Hobbies Society, Hyderabad has brought out these in a book form, which is priced Rs. 50/- only. The interested Philatelists are advised to obtain a copy for their reference and guidance.

So friends devote your unstinted efforts to your exhibits and bring honour to yourself, your society and your country.

Thanks

The author presented the above paper during "Seminar on Philately" conducted on 5 Aug 95 by THE HYDERABAD PHILATELIC & HOBBIES SOCIETY.

The 10 most wanted

Their mug shots may not be on the wall of your local post office or police station, but these animals are among the world's "most wanted" - the 10 species most threatened by poachers. The World Wildlife Fund has identified the following list of animals that - despite international protection - are seriously endangered by the illegal wildlife trade.

Asiatic Black Bear : Bear species in Asia and elsewhere are being poached in growing numbers for their gall bladders, which are used in traditional Asian medicines. The organs sell for as much as \$18,000 a piece, before being converted into tablet or powder form.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna : The bluefin tuna, the largest fish in the Atlantic, can swim up to 88 kilometres (55 miles) per hour and migrates thousands of miles a year. Chronic overfishing has caused a 90 percent decline of this species during the last 20 years. Unfortunately, bluefin tuna don't reproduce until eight years of age.

Black Rhino : In Africa, black rhino population has dropped to an estimated 2,000 - more than a 95 percent decline since 1970. Rhinos are killed primarily for their valuable horns, which are ground into a medicinal powder used in many Asian countries.

Bog Turtle : Found throughout the eastern United States, the bog turtle faces the threats of habitat loss and a decline of breeding individuals in the wild. The turtles are highly prized by hobbyists and pet owners. A single male may sell for \$ 250; a breeding pair can go for as much as \$ 850.

Giant Panda : Numbering fewer than 1,000 in the wild, giant pandas face extinction before the end of the century unless drastic conservation measures are taken, including habitat protection and strict anti-poaching measures. The panda's primary diet consists of bamboo shoots, making the animal difficult to preserve in its natural environment.

Hawksbill Sea Turtle : The Hawksbill, named for its distinctive beak, is the principal source of "tortoise shell", although the trade of hawksbill shell has been banned by most countries. The one-metre (three foot) long turtles inhabit tropical reefs. Its slow reproductive rate makes the species particularly vulnerable to the effects of poaching.

Moluccan Cockatoo : The moluccan cockatoo, native to Indonesia, is admired for its beautiful colour and commercial value as a pet. These salmon-pink and white birds may sell in the United States for \$500 to \$3,000. Television shows such as "Baretta" - which featured a loveable cockatoo- fueled a public demand that hastened the bird's demise in the wild.

Orangutan : Orangutans are found only in the forested areas of Sumatra and Borneo. Deforestation and human encroachment threaten to destroy the remaining habitat of these apes, which are still highly prized as a collector's item on the wildlife blackmarket.

Orinoco Crocodile : This large, fresh water species of crocodile is found only in the Orinoco River of Venezuela. Hunted to the brink of extinction in the 1930s and 1940s for its valuable hide, the species is still recovering.

Siberian Tiger : Fewer than 300 of these magnificent cats remain in the wilds of Russia and China. While loss of habitat is their greatest threat, the recent upsurge in poaching for tiger parts (used in oriental medicines) has endangered the few remaining population.

courtesy: *Rotarian* - March, 1994.

Preparation of A Thematic Exhibit

M.T. Karunakaran

Exhibitions:

During the two decades India has been making rapid strides in the field of Philately. Philatelic exhibitions were organised at state and national levels at various centres in India. A number of Philatelic Associations of various states conducted Philatelic Exhibitions of a very high standard. For the first time an International Philatelic exhibition comprising of entries from Asian Countries only, was held at Bangalore during 1977. In due recognition of the enormous and very real interest in Philately evidenced in India, the year 1980 saw the first International stamp exhibition under FIP patronage, held at New Delhi. This was an historical event. The exhibition was inaugurated by the President of the Indian Republic. Later in 1989 again as International Exhibition of a very high standard was conducted at the same venue at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It may be proudly stated here that Indian Philatelists have not lagged behind much, in the sharing of the prizes for their exhibits. Nowadays it has become a norm for every Postal circle to conduct a State level Philatelic Exhibition within a period of 3 years. This augers exceedingly well for the future and further development of Philately in India.

Every stamp collector must consider this hobby as an art and strive to make it meaningful and interesting. Mere collection of a heap of stamps will not give them as much delight as a few of them logically and thematically arranged and presented would provide.

When one is sure that he has enough material and studies them well, must try to mount them in album sheets with suitable write up and put them up in an exhibition. If the exhibit is properly done, it may get appropriately rewarded and it will be an achievement in the pursuit of the hobby.

General Classification :

Commonly the exhibits are invited for the competition under the following classification for the Philatelic exhibitions in India.

1. National Class : (This includes India Classics; pre-independence; post Independence; Indian States conventional and Feudatories; India-used abroad; India-special cancellation or Research collection).
2. Asia (excluding India).
3. Europe
4. Rest of the world
5. Postal history (including pre-Philately, cancellation, campaign and FPO covers etc).
6. Postal Stationery
7. Aerophilately
8. Literature
9. Maximaphily
10. Thematics

Thematic Classification :

In this article an attempt is made to discuss the thematic classification in philately and the logistics in the preparation of thematic exhibits. Dictionaries

define the word 'theme' as; subject of discourse composition, conversation topic etc; the adjective thematic therefore means, belonging to constituting a theme.

Thematic arrangement of stamps is considered to be easily approachable in the field of Philately by new comers, in modern times for the following reasons.

a) Since the issue of 'Penny black' and 'Two pence blue' by Great Britain in 1840, over 700 Governments have issued postage stamps.

b) More than 4,00,000 postage stamps have so far been issued in the world, which is quite formidable for anyone to collect.

c) During the era of colonialism the designs of the stamps were few. They were normally confined to ruling monarchs or national heroes.

d) In recent years stamps bear a wide variety of designs. They depict national, international, historical, geographical, scientific and biological characteristics. These designs are becoming increasingly interesting.

e) A thematist in the field of Philately has a vast and rather unlimited scope of themes to choose.

In fact in the modern days thematic presentations are gaining more ground and due attention in international exhibitions.

Preparing a thematic exhibit :

The following steps are advocated in preparing a thematic exhibit of stamps.

The first and **foremost** step is to choose your theme. This may not be as

simple as it appears. But to tackle it, the collected and accumulated material must be sorted out and arranged in different stock books. Such classification may comprise various groups such as birds, animals, ships, aeroplanes, flowers, plants, sceneries, buildings, paintings, personalities etc., Each such sorted out group should then be studied in great details.

The **desiderata** for the selection of the theme to be exhibited are:

a) The participant is interested in that particular subject.

b) The participant possesses adequate general knowledge in the subject.

c) The possession of sufficient material on hand.

d) The possibility of obtaining easily additional material from approachable sources.

The above desiderata are accomplished by perusing books and literature pertaining to the theme chosen. Such studies besides making the subject interesting widens ones knowledge in regard to relevant details on the subject. The stamp catalogues may be referred for obtaining adequate and upto date particulars of stamps, connected with the theme selected. This is very important as it will enable to make earnest attempt to obtain many missing links in the collection. By and large philatelists constitute a class by themselves. They are keen on taking lively interest in each other's work and do not hesitate to have a frank discussion and offer mutual help. It is always useful and pay rich dividends to be a member of a local Philatelists club or association. Exchange clubs and dealers

In stamps may be contacted to augment ones requirements.

Title for the theme :

The next step after the selection of the theme to be exhibited is to choose a suitable title for the theme. The title should be some what interesting. It should not be dry and simple such as 'birds' 'ships', 'bridges' etc., For the theme birds', Migratory Birds, Aquatic birds may be more interesting. Titles such as 'From log to ice breakers', 'Ships and wars' and 'Ships and explorers' will be more interesting than the title 'Ships'.

Planning in the preparation :

After ensuring one has the required material and accessories and the knowledge to exhibit the theme selected by him, the actual planning in the preparation of the exhibit has to be taken up. Availability of adequate material to represent ones theme is of utmost importance. Sub-classification of the main theme if necessary according to the availability of material has to be thought of. A rough schematic sketch may be prepared.

The next step is to decide the number of pages of sheets to be allotted to the subject. Normally it may be about 32 to 80 album sheets. While making this preliminary estimate of the allotment of sheets for the exhibit, the exhibitor must also formulate ideas as how best his exhibit may be re-arranged to a lesser or larger number of sheets whenever necessary. It is easier to increase than to reduce the number of sheets after the exhibit is prepared.

Arrangement :

The next step is the arrangement of stamps in stock book pages or dummy sheets of the same size of the album sheets. Album sheets are to be used for the mounting of the actual exhibits. The arrangement should be such as to clearly illustrate the theme selected. Intermixing of other ideas with the theme selected should be avoided at all cost.

The next step is to prepare rough write up matter on separate dummy sheets. As introduction is always a part and parcel of an exhibit, it must be brief, precise and relevant to the theme presented. The introduction is presented usually in the first sheet of the exhibit. The write up for the other sheets should be very simple and sharp and need not contain philatelic details like catalogue numbers, perforations, methods of production, water mark etc, it should be strictly confined to the theme. Irrelevant information should be avoided. New entrants are well advised to seek the guidance of senior and experienced philatelists in the preparation and presentation of exhibits.

Merits :

It may be borne in mind that the exhibits are judged on the merits of following points.

1. The theme or the story that is presented through the stamp.
2. The originality and neatness of preparation of the exhibit.
3. The condition and coverage of material presented.
4. Evidence of topical knowledge of the theme.

Write-up :

The judges have very limited time to study the exhibits. It is therefore not possible for them to go through all the write-up. They only scan the exhibits and study the write-up, only when they need to check up.

The next step is the arrangement of the stamps in the album sheet, duly inserting the write up matter. The write-up should normally be done before the actual mounting of the stamps. The stamps should be so arranged as to give a symmetrical and pleasing look by taking into account their colour, size, variety etc. Sixteen album sheets 9" x 11" size are normally exhibited in one frame. These sixteen sheets when viewed together in one frame should present a well balanced appearance. It has been stated earlier that the write up should normally be gone before the actual mounting of the stamps after marking their pre-arranged location in the album sheets. This procedure will prevent the risk of damage of stamps during the write up. This will also avoid the removal or remounting of stamps which is another cause of damage to the stamps and the album sheets as well.

The write-up should be in black ink. The handwriting should be small and leg-

ible. Type written and stencil write ups are also accepted. Bold letters with artistic decorations etc. for the write up should be avoided. This will distract ones attention from the stamps which are the real exhibits. Stamps should be prominently displayed. Non philatelic materials like pictures and photographs should be avoided.

General Regulations for the Evaluation of competitive Exhibits of FIP Exhibitions (GREV), have been developed and the particulars are available with the Philatelic Associations and the exhibitors should study the same and place themselves fully aware of the finer points.

However other philatelic materials such as first day covers, pictorial cancellations etc, connected with the theme may be included.

Presentation :

A good cogent and neat presentation of a subject solely with the aid of stamps will get more points in an exhibition than a thematic exhibit clubbed up with unnecessary write up and extraneous pictures and blow ups.

Originality in the choice of the title and uniqueness in presentation should be the guiding factors in preparing an exhibit.

Postal History With Special Reference To Exhibiting And Evaluation

By Vispi S Dastur

Postal history is the story of man's systematised endeavours and progress in written communication. Its collections based on the study and classification of postal and philatelic items are directly relevant to the methods, routing and conditions of despatch of postal communications of diverse periods. A P.H. exhibit shows the post at work. Mr D N Jatia, President, F.I.P. in his foreword to our handbook "India Used Abroad" states that "the continual and systematic endeavours of man achieving safe and swift exchanges of written communication from one part of the world to another is recorded in what is Postal History. It includes the study and classification of postal items which are associated with the mode and methods of despatch, routing, rates and conditions of despatch including the marking of the postal systems", as its name implies, is the unravelling of the postal operations and organisations with help of philatelic materials - In practice, it is a display of used covers which fill a connected postal story.

According to the earlier Article 2 of the F.I.P. P.H. S.R.E.V. "A Postal History exhibit is an exhibit of documents of postal items, which have been carried by a postal service whether official, local or private. Such exhibits will show either routes, rates and markings or/and the classification and study of postal markings on covers or stamps applied by those services or institutions, and of the marks of obliteration on postal items." The revised Article 2 states

"P.H. exhibits contain material carried by, and related to official, local or private mails. Such exhibits generally emphasize routes, rates, markings, usages and other postal aspects, services, functions and activities related to the development of Postal Services. Postmark exhibits have classification and/or studies of postal markings related to official, local or private mails on covers and other postal items" According to the present F.I.P. Guidelines for judging a Postal History Exhibit, "A Postal History exhibit, by analysis of the philatelic objects within it, should show and explain the development or operations of one or more postal services, the practical application of postal rules and regulations and the study and classification of the use of philatelic material and/or postal markings to illustrate the main subject of the exhibit. It applies to exhibits covering the start of organised postal services to those of the present day".

A proper understanding of the above definitions of P.H. is very essential as many philatelists do not clearly understand its definition and scope nor know its boundaries or limitations with respect to Traditional Philately.

Philatelists began collecting postage stamps soon after their introduction in 1840. A few collectors, especially in Europe, kept their stamps on the original covers and that was the start of philatelic postal history. We philatelists when we speak of P.H. mean

philatelic P.H. i.e. collection of appropriate pieces of paper which would normally fit upon an album page or two. We do not mean post office letter boxes, post horns, postal uniforms, mail coaches, mail bags and pouches, etc. although these also constitute P.H. and are displayed at postal museums. Philatelic P.H. starts earlier than 1840. Letters from the times of the Pharaohs of Egypt, Cyrus the Great of the Persian (Iranian) Empire, if any remaining, would constitute P.H. for us. The earliest handstruck stamp or postal marking introduced in 1661 in England by Henry Bishop, the Postmaster General shows the month and day in a segmented circle and is today popularly known as the "Bishop Mark". The earliest handstruck postal marking in India is the Bishop Mark used in 1775. These postal markings were not cancellations. Cancellations came later in 1840 for the purpose of obliterating the adhesive postage stamps. The first cancellation is the Maltese Cross used in Great Britain for cancelling the Penny Black and Two Pence Blue stamps. The first cancellations in India were on the Scinde Dawks and for the whole of India on the 1854 lithograph stamps. So all cancellations are postmarks but all postmarks are not cancellations.

The collection of P.H. did not attract a broad following until after World War II. However, there were many like Renouf, Robson Lowe and Jal Cooper, amongst others, who were pioneers in P.H. and did much to propagate the collection of different aspects of Postal History, especially pre-adhesive handstruck stamps, cancellations and used abroads. P.H. was not recognised as a proper and legitimate speciality by the F.I.P. until

1974. The Exhibition Rules and Regulations for P.H. were approved in 1975 effective January 1, 1976. The present P.H. SREV and Guidelines were approved at the 61st F.I.P. World Congress held at Granada, Spain in May 1992 and came into force from January 1, 1995.

Article 3 of SREV mentions that a P.H. exhibit consists of used covers, used postal stationery, used postage stamps and other postal documents so arranged as to illustrate a balanced plan as a whole or to develop any aspect of P.H.

Examples of P.H. subjects include:

1. Pre-adhesive postal services.
2. The development of postal services, local, regional, national or international.
3. Postal rates
4. Routes for transportation of mails.
5. Postal markings (Marcophily)
6. Military Mail: Field post, siege mail, civil and military internee camp mail.
7. Maritime mail and /or internal waterways mail.
8. Railway mail.
9. All kinds of Travelling Post offices
10. Disaster mail.
11. Disinfected mail
12. Censorship mail
13. Postage due mail
14. Automation of the mails
15. Forwarding agents markings
16. Official mail, Free Frank mail.

This SREV list of possible subjects for a P.H. exhibition is not a limitation on the permissible subjects. It is possible

to show the development of mails between two or more areas, nations or continents to show the development of postal services in one country, one district or one single geographical locality. Exhibits may be planned chronologically, geographically (e.g. by local/national districts), by mode of transport/service, or by any other way that the exhibitor may feel appropriate to employ.

Philately is a very democratic hobby and one can collect whatsoever one desires and in whatsoever manner one wants but when exhibiting one has to follow certain rules and regulations, guidelines, etc, in order to obtain high award.

The general F.I.P. rule for allotment of frames at International Exhibitions is that a new entry gets 5 frames. If the exhibit secures a Large Vermeil or higher award, it will normally be allotted 8 frames in future exhibitions.

For judging P.H. Exhibits, SREV 5.2 states that the following relative terms are presented to lead the jury to a balanced evaluation:

1. Treatment & Importance of the Exhibit	30
(Treatment 20 & Importance 10)	
2. Knowledge & Research	35
3. Condition & Rarity	30
(Condition 10 & Rarity 20)	
4. Presentation	5
	<u>100</u>

Although "Presentation" is mentioned last and has been allotted only 5 marks (as F.I.P. feels that tastes change from country to country) we cannot over-emphasize the significance of a proper, de-

cent and attractive presentation both from the viewer and the jury's point of view. Remember, the purpose is to attract the viewer or the judge to study the exhibit and to become interested in the subject presented by the exhibit. Just as a bride is well presented and decorated at her wedding, the exhibit must be well presented on this very important day by the exhibitor. A diamond sparkles and looks good only when the raw material is well cut and polished and is in a proper setting so also your philatelic gems should be well set and presented.

Remember faulty presentation will mar the exhibitor's chances even if knowledge and material are there. This arises not only because he will lose marks directly under this element of presentation but also because the judges could be given the wrong impression about the extent of his knowledge and even be misled in their interpretation of the exhibit vis-a-vis the remaining elements in the scheme of marking.

Article 4.7 of GREV states that the criterion of "Presentation" requires an evaluation of the clarity of display, the text as well as the overall aesthetic balance of the exhibit.

The key maxim here should be visual balance, an aesthetic balance between the components on the individual pages together with an aesthetic balance between the pages taken as a sequence. Guideline 5.4.1 states that presentation should complement the treatment of the exhibit by its general layout and clarity.

Judges should evaluate the work put into the presentation from the point of view of how it facilitates the understanding and attraction of the exhibit to the

Judges and viewers alike.

All P.H. exhibits must contain an introductory plan showing the scope of the exhibit and should give relevant general information on the subject and indicate areas of personal investigation. According to Article 4.1 of SREV it is compulsory that the plan or concept of the exhibit should be clearly explained in an introductory statement. The introductory page will have to be a synopsis of your exhibit.

Mr. Paul Jensen, President, F.I.P. Commission on Postal History in an article "Exhibiting Postal History" published in the E.I.P.S. Golden Jubilee issue of India's Stamp Journal suggests that the introductory page may contain the following:

- (1) Title which should correspond to the introductory plan and should be the same as mentioned in the final entry form.
- (2) A brief introduction of the subject (and perhaps a small map if you have space)
- (3) A brief concentrate of what you wish to tell and to prove in your exhibit.
- (4) A listing of the main contents of each frame (options)
- (5) Highlighting some particularly important or rare items (optional)
- (6) A listing of your sources (Optional)

In our opinion a small original antique map, if obtainable, would enhance the value. Remember to use any map only if it is necessary. The introduction should preferably be restricted to one page for which you may use telegraphic language. If out of compulsion you have

to use two pages, ensure that some philatelic item (even small) is kept on the second page. It is not necessary to mention the history and geography of the place however, postal history and post offices should be mentioned. In our one page Introduction to our exhibit on I.U.A. -Aden- Victorian Era Issues, we have shown a small map of Aden and its sub Post offices, its postal history, subject and plan of the exhibit, postal rates, routes and markings, references and finally a note for the attention of the viewers and the jury. The main purpose of this page is to let them know briefly what you desire to show in the ensuing pages. This page can be very significant in how the exhibit is judged as it creates an attraction to the exhibit or in extreme cases even a repulsion to it. A well thought our plan may avoid otherwise lengthy descriptions later in the exhibit. We believe in giving a very brief survey on this page and later use short explanatory notes at other places in the exhibit especially when a postmark or a period of time, a reign, etc. changes or on the first page of each frame. The title page is the only page in the exhibit that need not have philatelic or postal material (i.e. stamps, covers, documents) on it. We may remind you that an Introductory page with a proper title and plan is now compulsory and its omission will substantially down grade your exhibit. We suggest that from a practical point of view the introductory page be finalised only after the whole exhibit is ready.

Plan your exhibit in such a manner that it lucidly tells a story- a complete one. The pages should together - and in a logical sequence -tell the complete story of the exhibit. Always remember that the exhibit is yours and must reflect

your personality, interest, knowledge and research.

GREV Article 4.3 states that the criterion of "Treatment of the Exhibit" requires an evaluation of the completeness and correctness of the selected material made by the exhibitor to illustrate his chosen subject. Article 4.4 states that the criterion of "Philatelic Importance" requires an evaluation of philatelic significance of the subject chosen by the exhibitor, in terms of its scope, degree of difficulty of the subject and the philatelic interest of the exhibit.

Treatment and Philatelic Importance of the exhibit are allotted 30 points of which 10 are for relative Philatelic importance and 20 to the development, completeness and correctness of the material shown. Guideline 5.1.3 states that "the importance of an exhibit will be gauged in relation to the general postal history of the country, area or subject shown, and to philately in general. It will usually be easier to adequately treat and provide completeness to unimportant subjects than to important ones in the space available." Guideline 5.1.4 states "for example the P.H. of a capital city may generally be more important than that of a provincial town or a rural area. A postal rate study of postal agreements between two or more states would generally be more important than the domestic internal rates of a individual state over the same period. An exhibit (e.g. of rates) which spans the pre-adhesive and postage stamp eras, but omits the first postage stamp issues, will inevitably be down graded under importance and rarity. This is equally applicable to exhibits of all periods which omit the most difficult sections."

When evaluating the treatment and

importance of the exhibits, judges will look at the general development of the subject, the completeness of the material shown in relation to the scope of the exhibit and the relative philatelic significance of the subject shown, as well as the difficulty in duplicating the exhibit. Exhibitors should ensure that their exhibit is cohesive and avoid combining largely unrelated subjects; such exhibits are likely to lose marks under the treatment and importance criterion. The judges would also assess whether the material exhibited is relevant to the scope of the exhibit. With rare exceptions, unused stamps and postal stationery are irrelevant. Maps, proclamations, notifications, etc. used only if relevant to the development and documentation, should be restricted in number and the judges, in principle, are to only evaluate the philatelic material shown. A large portion of the material displayed should preferably not be from one single archive or correspondence.

Showing the same postal markings on different stamps is not advisable unless it is a local P.H. exhibit where postmarks and P.O.'s are limited, the use of the stamps from that place is for a very short time or very few were used, etc. e.g. many of the common stamps of India are scarce or rare when used at certain places outside India.

Exhibitors should avoid large scale duplication of similar items, large chronological gaps where possible and the inclusion of expensive items not directly relevant to the subject shown. A P.H. exhibit should show philatelically interesting material to the best advantage and the write up should not be lengthy and make it appear to a manuscript for a monograph.

According to Article 2 of SREV Postmark exhibits have classification and/or studies of postal markings related to official, local or private mails on covers or other postal items.

A Postmark (Marcophily) exhibit is concerned with the classification and/or study of postal markings and obliterations, including manuscript markings, applied by official and private postal services and may range from pre-stamp era to the present day. The exhibit may cover the function, the period of use, place of use, colour, state or other changes over a period of time or other aspects of postal markings. The subjects can include marks of the post office or of services such as registration, maritime, travelling post offices, disinfection, instructional markings, abbreviations, etc. Examples of Postmark exhibits include the study of repaired date-stamps and methods of showing distances used by postal administrations. A study of different types of automatic postal coding marks used would be a Postmark exhibit, the introduction of automation by an Administration is, however, P.H. Postmark exhibits will be judged using the same criteria as P.H.

A total of 35 points can be given for Philatelic and related knowledge, Personal Study and Research. According to GREV 4.5 this criteria requires the following evaluations:

Knowledge is the degree of knowledge of the exhibitor as expressed by the items chosen for display and their related comments; Personal Study is the proper analysis of the items chosen for display; Research is the presentation of new facts related to the chosen subject. Knowledge is demonstrated by the items

selected for the exhibit and comments thereon. Personal study is demonstrated by the proper analysis of the items chosen for display. For exhibits where obviously a great deal of real research (presentation of new facts related to the chosen subject) has been done, a large proportion of the total points may be given for this research. In cases where a subject has been significantly researched earlier, an exhibit should not be penalised for lack of opportunity and general original research. The proper evaluation of philatelic and general knowledge, personal study and research will be based on the relevant description of each philatelic object shown. However, the information given should not overwhelm the philatelic material shown. There should not be too much or irrelevant write up. Article 4 of SREV realising the need for comparatively more write up in a P.H. Exhibit states that the importance of understanding a P.H. Exhibit can mean that more text is included which must be concise and clear.

There could be study of repaired date stamps, varieties and errors therein and methods of showing distances used by postal administration. In a P.H. exhibit the emphasis should be on postal rates, routes and markings, usages. The different postal rates for different places, for letters of different weight, for different routes and at different periods of time, etc. must be mentioned. Wherever it is possible to ascertain what the postage charges are comprised of, this should be mentioned, e.g. inland, foreign, captain's bounty, ordinary postage plus registration or late fee or other charge, etc. The route taken by the letter should be mentioned so also the dif-

ferent routes available for the same destination and charges thereon over a period of time. At some places small maps could be drawn showing the route taken. Each and every postal marking, including manuscript markings should be explained. The dates: opening and closing of the relevant post office may be mentioned.

Earliest and latest recorded dates of postal markings should be mentioned and emphasised by bold letters. Details of ships, whether Government packets, regular lines like P. & O, naval or private ships, etc. should be mentioned. Places of mute or dumb and numerical postmarks should be identified. details of names of captains, commanders, naval and military units involved, etc., may be mentioned. Combination covers could be displayed alongwith the reasons for such use. Article 3.2 of SREV states that a P.H. exhibit may contain, where strictly necessary, maps, prints, decrees and similar associated materials but such items must have direct relation to the chosen subject and to the postal services described in the exhibit. Relevant sections of the Post Office Acts, Rules & Regulations could be mentioned. Interesting contents of the letters, especially if they pertain to the post office or military and naval campaigns, etc. may be mentioned.

According to GREV Article 4.6 "The criteria of Condition and Rarity require an evaluation of the quality of the displayed material considering the standard of the material that exists for the chosen subject, the rarity and the relative difficulty of acquisition of the selected material".

Under the new Regulations a total

of 30 points can be given for condition (10 points) and Rarity and Significance of the items shown (20 points). Rarity is directly related to the philatelic items displayed and to the relative scarcity of material of the type shown and in particular to the rarity (however, not the value or price) and the importance to the total exhibit and its subject e.g. a postal marking of a small town showing the only example known, but of a standard type used throughout the country, may be of less significance than a special type only used at that town. Remember rarity and expense are not synonymous an item may be expensive but readily available. On the other hand a relatively cheap stamp or cancellation may be hard to find. A judge should not take the monetary value into account; he should look for the uncommon and difficult to obtain item e.g. an expensive Indian 1854 Lithograph is readily available but a postalmarking like 'a/124' or '125' of Aden is not readily available as Late Mr. Jal Cooper used to say "for money or for love or for both." It is important that rare and scarce items be brought to the attention of the viewer and the jury by emphasising the fact in the write up in bold or thicker letters as otherwise they are likely to be over looked. Also as far as possible show the rare items at eye level and not in the bottom row of the frame.

As condition may vary considerably for P.H. material, judges should bear in mind the quality obtainable. On the whole, good condition, clean, legible and complete postal markings as well as the general appearance of the objects, is rewarded, while poor quality is penalised. When possible, covers and other objects carrying postage stamps

should show the stamps in good condition. However, there is a general opinion that though the postal marking should be clear and complete the quality of a stamp in a P.H. context should be subordinate to the quality and importance of the whole piece and especially the postal markings. Guideline 3.7 states that postage stamps displayed in a Postmark exhibit are irrelevant except that they should be in reasonable condition and if used postage stamps are included, the evaluation will be based on the classification and study of the postal markings and obliterations on the stamps. In an exhibit of wreck/crash covers, while the condition of the covers will by definition be poor, the postal markings applied upon salvage should be as clear as possible. Postal markings on a complete cover or entire are preferable than on loose stamps as a cover tells the whole story of rates, routes and markings usage, time taken, etc. Any attempt to improve the appearance of a postal marking, subsequent to its being applied by the postal authorities shall be treated as being faked material. Forged stamps and postal markings should be avoided however, postal forgeries may be displayed. Covers passing through the post are preferred to those which have been cancelled philatelically or "by favour".

Some suggestions based on our personal observations and experience are given below;

The exhibit page should be pure white, simple and without ornamental borders; it may be with faint coloured quadrilles but the latest trend is to have a completely blank pure white page.

Do not make the exhibit technique colour. Use throughout dark black ink

only. Do not underline but write the significant matter in bold type. The modern trend is not to border or frame the stamps and covers. Avoid the profuse use of arrows; if at all you wish to use them, use one colour throughout and shorten the arrows. Don't mention "rare" or "only copy known;" the present trend is to write, say "only known or recorded" but we personally are not in favour of this trend as we have seen several cases where such numbers mentioned were wrong. We could mention "Not easily obtainable" or some similar wording. Do point out the important items in your collection so that they are not overlooked. Be careful of your use of the language and spellings. We are not in favour of repeating the title on each page. Each cover should as far as possible, be placed on the same level from the top of the sheet so that they all appear at the same level which is pleasing to the eye, however, ensure that it does not become monotonous. Wherever possible try to put two covers or items per page so that there does not appear to be any "padding". Illustrations of postal markings are necessary only when originals are not clear. Postal markings on the reverse of the cover can be drawn or in some cases a xerox copy could be shown. As per 5.4.2 of the Guidelines coloured photographs or reproductions should be at least 25% different in size from the original. Too many photographs or xerox copies should be avoided as otherwise the exhibit will give the impression of being "padded" i.e. filled up with non-philatelic material. Remember you are being judged on what you have displayed and not on your whole collection so make a proper and judicious choice while selecting the items for display.

Let us again emphasise that a hotch potch collection of covers or postmarks does not make a P.H. exhibit. It becomes one only when it is arranged and written up so as to tell an understandable story of the organisation and/or operation of the posts at some time and place. Do not write the face value or colour of the stamps or its catalogue number unless there is a very special reason. Mention the names and dates of the places of despatch, transit and destination and the number of days taken if substantially more or less than the normal number of days to reach its destination.

Use of provenance (record of the previous owners of the items) such as "ex Desai" should be sparingly done in the exhibit, and only for star items. There is a growing feeling that such annotation is an annoyance, and some judges react negatively to it, particularly if it is overdone.

Covers where they are slit or opened carelessly or torn may be trimmed and if need be thick paper of similar colour kept inside the cover to enhance its appearance.

Note varieties or errors in the cancellations and other postal markings; they could be errors in spellings, inverted day, month, year slots, damage to the handstamp resulting in an error or variety e.g. "BUSHIRF" instead of 'BUSHIRE', constant varieties should also be emphasised e.g. 'POIN' instead of 'POINT' - 'T' missing in the case of Aden Steamer Point.

The same postal marking may be seen in different colours; in such cases mention the reason or purposes and the period of use of such colour. Mention in

bold type "Not recorded by —" if item displayed is not mentioned by the specialist handbooks on the subject. Though stamps are not significant in a P.H. exhibit emphasise the use of scarce stamps, large blocks or strips, especially of the classic or early issues. In some cases, mention may be made of the writer of the letter or the addressee, especially if he is an eminent personality or connected with the military or navy.

Show some scarce used postal stationery, some 'service' or official stamps and postal stationery or other official mail. Emphasise anything which is out of the ordinary. If more than one type of cancellation is used for obliterating different stamps on the same cover this should be highlighted. Unusual postal use of a postmark should also be emphasised e.g. "SEA POST OFFICE" c.d.s. of Bombay - Aden Sea P.O. which was normally applied on the body of the cover and not as an obliterator seen in some cases used to cancel stamps. Stamps escaping cancellation and subsequently cancelled at destination or an old handstamp suddenly being reused after years should be emphasised e.g. "B — 1" of Bombay in the All India Series of 1873 being used in late 1890s and early 1900s for cancelling stamps which had escaped obliteration on incoming mail by ships. Also mention if letters from particular place to a particular destination are scarce. Foreign reply postcards and local postal stationery used for foreign mail or vice versa may also be included. Manuscript and other markings of foreign countries should also be explained; however, if you are not sure of your facts and there is no time to find out it is better not to mention erroneous information. If the date of the marking differs

from official postal, naval or military records it may be mentioned e.g. ship reaching a particular port on a particular day according to maritime records but the postal marking shows a different day. Mention if there are more than one application or marking of the same postal marking on one cover e.g. three Sea P.O. markings on same cover. If an instructional marking has been applied but subsequently cancelled, it should be explained. Mail by unusual routes should be mentioned. Do not include the genuineness certificates but certificate number may be mentioned. All pages and handwriting or typing should be the same throughout the exhibit. If using both stamps and covers the current fashion is to place stamps at the top of the page and covers underneath. A registered cover is normally preferred over an unregistered one with similar markings; similarly, prefer covers with multi-coloured frankings, or with large number of stamps, or large blocks and strips especially of the early issues. Avoid first day covers unless absolutely necessary and then also use only those which have passed through the post; emphasise and explain unusual military, maritime, instructions markings, abbreviations, etc. If the die of handstamp is manufactured abroad when normally handstamps are manufactured locally in the country, then this should be emphasised. Remember highlighting these facts will also show your knowledge, study and research.

Writing from one extreme end of the page (left side) to the other (right hand side) is not advisable; better leave 1/2 inch on either side below the cover or other item displayed.

Friends, let us remember that there is no last word to knowledge, especially where postal history is concerned so keep up to date, read the latest F.I.P. Rules & Regulations especially GREV, SREV and Guidelines, specialised handbooks, Indian and foreign stamp journals, discuss with other philatelists and correspond with the experts in India and abroad. A proper study of the "F.I.P. Guide to exhibiting and Judging Traditional Philately and Postal History Exhibits" sponsored by F.I.A.P. is very essential as it gives examples of what is a good and a bad P.H. Exhibit. It also shows how the same material may be displayed in different ways both for a Traditional Philately exhibit as well as P.H. exhibit. Go through your own collection regularly as very often you are likely to observe new facts which you may not have noticed earlier.

Don't keep the preparation of your exhibit till the last minute and then say you had no time. We would advise you to prepare your exhibit afresh for each exhibition; not only will this demonstrate your developing knowledge and new material from one exhibition to the next, but will also enable you to correct any mistakes you have learnt from your previous participation.

P.H. in India as elsewhere in the world still offers tremendous scope for windfalls and with proper knowledge and study one can still pick up bargains. Moreover collecting and studying P.H. is not only interesting and exciting but also enlightening and there is still ample scope for personal research and having the satisfaction of contributing to human knowledge.

Medals and Marks:

As mentioned in Article 5.4 of GREV

Medals are awarded as per the following table:

Large Gold	95 points
Gold	90
Large Vermeil	85
Vermeil	80
Large Silver	75
Silver	70
Silver Bronze	65
Bronze	60

Felicitations of the Jury can be given once only for the same exhibit. Special Prizes must not be given as an intermediary step between two medals.

In the words of Mr. Jensen judges may seem inhuman to many exhibitors. That is wrong. Judges are very human and it is human to fail, therefore when you write up your exhibit try to help the jury not to fail.

The prime intent of your efforts should be to attract, to interest and inform the viewers and the judges about your favourite subject so that the exhibit is properly rewarded. Remember what PUSKAS the great football player of Spain said when asked the secret of his success "I regularly play football. However, when I don't play football, I talk football and when I don't talk football, I think football". Develop the "Killer" instinct and the spirit of the pursuit of excellence. Friends devote your unstinted efforts to your exhibits and bring honour to yourself, your Society and your country.

The author presented the above paper during "Seminar on Philately" conducted on 5 AUG 95 by THE HYDERABAD PHILATELIC & HOBBIES SOCIETY.

TIT BITS

1. Blue Post Boxes were first used in London in 1930.
2. House numbers were given to guide Postal service - first used in Paris.
3. The animals used to help Postal services were the cat, the dog, the pony, the horse, the monkey, the camel, the bullocks, and the pigeon, the reindeer was also used.
4. Cats were used only for a short time in Leige and Belgium. They were discontinued because they were highly indisciplined.
5. Dogs were first used in Sussex England. Even today these are the Alaska Dog Post service.
6. The first circular stamp was issued by India -called Sinda Dawks in 1852.
7. The greatest number of languages on a stamp was 75. The word "The Bible" in South Africa in 1987.
8. Stamps have been used as money during the American civil War.
9. Stamps started a war between Bolivia and Paraguay over the size of the country in 1930.
10. People have been murdered for stamps, on two occasions:
 - 1) for the Hawai missionary stamp of 1851.
 - 2) in 1896 in Paris- collector Albert killed a dealer for a set of stamps.
11. Cheque stamps were embossed on cheques-First started in Britain.
12. Christmas stamps were first issued in Canada in 1898.
13. College stamps were issued by Oxford School and Cambridge school in 13th century.
14. Forgeries of stamps are made to cheat collectors or postal authorities - first in 1840.
15. First scout stamp was issued in 1890 in Mafeking.
16. Longest thematic set -134 stamps sheet was issued by Turkey in 1958.
17. Camels were first used in North Africa and the Middle East.
18. Bullock mail was first used in India in 1846 from Allahabad and Delhi.
19. Pony Express first started in 1889 in the U.S.
20. Horse drawn mail coaches were first used in Rome in 1850.
21. Pigeon, Post first started in Orissa in India.
22. Camel Zone is the only country that has issued the least number of stamps from 1967 to 1970 only.
23. The First triangular stamp was issued by cape of good Hope in 1853.

Compiled by : **Mrs. Thomas** M.A., M.Ed.,

Horns Antlers and Tusks a Theme in Philately

by M. T. Karunakaran

Many people are not aware of the difference between horns and antlers. Except for being head pieces, they have nothing common between them - neither in composition nor in utility.

There are atleast five families of ungulated or hooved animals which possess head pieces either in the form of horns or as antlers.

- i) The Rhinoceros with one or two mid-line nasal horns.
- ii) The cattle, sheep, goats and antelope (the *bovidae* family)
- iii) The deer, caribou, moose and elk, all members of the *cervadae* family sporting antlers.
- iv) The *giraffidae* (The giraffe and okapi) with knobs and
- v) The *antilopacridae* or the pronghorn antelope.

The important difference between horns and antlers is that the material with which the horn is made is related to the skin while the antlers, composition is related to bone.

The horn is formed mainly by a chemical substance known as keratin which is the principal constituent of hair, nails, hooves, scales, feathers and the like. Hence the horns are non living, devoid of nerves and blood supply and are insensitive. They do not feel pain nor do they bleed when they are cut.

The antlers are living organs especially in the early stages of development. It is enclosed in a hairy, living skin called velvet which has rich supply of blood vessels. It is

very sensitive to any kind of touch and pain and when injured it bleeds.

The basic distinction is that horns are permanent and not renewable if broken or lost; antlers on the other hand, are shed annually. Horns are bilaterally symmetric but the antlers are not strictly symmetrical due to their branching nature. Horns are unbranched; the only exception is the pronghorn. This species has an affinity to antlers because of the horns' deciduous nature. Infact the pronghorn antelope is the only *bavidae* species which has renewable horns. Pronghorn, is one of the designs of the ten stamps, all depicting wildlife; issued by United States in 1981 (Scott-1889).

Again the protuberances on giraffe's head are neither horns nor antlers. The horns of giraffe are long outgrowths covered by skin, and comparable with either the bony centres of hollow horns or the pedicles of antlers. The Okapi is unquestionably a cousin of the giraffe, Okapi's horns, present only in males are pointed and naked at the tips.

Giraffes are still fairly plentiful in Savannas. Among the set of 14 stamps Nigeria issued on wild life in 1965, 20s stamp depicts the giraffes beautifully roaming about in their environment. Some of the other issues; Niger-1959 (SG 107); Tanganyika-15 definitive stamps (SG 74 to 88); Tanzania-1965 (40C-SG) 133); south Africa-1954 (5\$-SG 163); Southern Rhodesia-1935 Silver Jubilee issues (SG 31 to 34).

Okapi inhabits in the dense rain forests of Eastern Congo. The picture of this unique animal has been illustrated in Belgian

Congo stamps of 1931-37 definitive issue, 1942 (SG-269) and in 1943 definitive issue.

Rhinoceros looks like a monster of some by gone age. The horn of the Rhino is not fixed to the skull like the antlers, which grows on pedicals, or like horns which grow on central cores of bones connected to the skull. It is epidermal and rests on the flesh and can be knocked off by a hard blow. When a horn is thus removed, another one grows after a year - an - exception among horn bearing animals.

The great Indian Rhino has one permanent horn above the nose. While its African cousin has two nasal horns placed one behind the other, the anterior one usually longer than the other. Of the other two Asiatic species of Rhino, the Sumatran is two horned; which has been depicted on a 6c stamp issued by North Borneo in 1909 (SG 282) and the Javan one horned. The Rhinoceros has been depicted on a stamp issued by Khmer Republic in 1972 (SG 339), thus the three Asiatic and two African species (White and Black Rhinos) both two horned constitute the only five Rhino Species.

The great Indian one horned Rhinoceros once roamed the Himalayan foothills and much of the plains of the Hindus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra. Because of clearance of dense forests for raising tea gardens and paddy fields which began in the late 19th century, forced the wild animals to confine themselves to the flood plains of the Brahmaputra. Human predation at one time led to the virtual extermination of the Rhino and other large animals. It was only with setting up of a wild life sanctuary in 1950, and its elevation to the status of National Parks in 1974 that the Rhino population began to look-up; to-day there are about 1200 Rhinos. The other Two

major parks are in Nepal and West Bengal holding about 300 and 40 Rhinos respectively.

In commemoration of the wild life week, India issued a stamp in 1962 in the denomination of 15 np depicting the picture of Indian Rhino, the Special cover issued in connection with that and the special first day cancellation also were with illustrations of the Indian Rhino.

In the same manner because of illegal poaching, the strength of African Rhino; the black or hook lipped Rhinoceros has also been drastically reduced. This solitary aggressive animal is at present under protection. The Zimbezi Valley is the last line of defence for the black Rhino an animal that once covered most of central, eastern and southern Africa. It is normally 12 ft. long and weighs 2 Tons.

Zambia Stamp issued in 1974 (SG 276) interestingly depicts African Rhino with its young one, Liberia issued in 1966, 20c stamp depicting Black Rhino (SG 741). Angola issued a stamp in 1953 (SG 495) Mozambique, Somalia, Congo are some of the other countries which have issued stamps depicting Rhinos.

The African white Rhinoceros is the largest mammal after the elephant and giraffe being 6 feet long and six feet six inches tall and weighing 3 to 4 tons. It is now in Zululand reserves and in a part of Uganda and the Sudan and survives only by protection. White Rhinoceros has been depicted on one of the set 15 wildlife stamps issued by Swaziland in 1969 (SG 172). The other countries which have issued stamps depicting this Rhino are Somalia 1971 (SG 529) Sudan-1958 (SG 146) etc.

Cattle (wild and domestic), sheep, goats and antelopes of the *bovidae* family have regular horns, which are of wider

varieties and of numerous sizes and shapes, like sharp, bent, short, long spiral, twisted, straight etc. Many countries have issued stamps in number depicting the above animals with all such horns. The collection and study of which would be really very interesting.

Great Britain issued a set of 5 stamps in 1984 depicting Highland cow, Chillingham wild bull, Herford Bull, Welsh Black bull & Irish Moiled cow; Nepal's 1973, 2p stamp depicts a cow; Buffalo has been well illustrated in a stamp of Mali of 1965; Dehomey depicted buffalo in its 15f stamp of fauna set issued in 1963 (SG 318). Burundi issued a stamp in 1970 (SG 534) depicting a cow with sharp long horns twisting upwards; the head of cow has been prominently illustrated showing the horns growing sidewise with a simple curve in a stamp issued by Botswana - 1921 (SG. 280) and Belgium Congo's stamp (SG. 143) depicts a bull with sharp long horns projecting symmetrically upwards. (SG 143). Gaur (Indian Bison) has been illustrated in one of the set of 5 stamps issued by India on wild life preservation during 1963 (SG 472). As already stated the list would be enormous.

For a few examples of Sheep and goat, Marco Polo sheep-Afganistan 1964 (SG 522) the horns of which symmetrically curving backwards angling sidewise; Albania's stamp of 1968 depicting Long horned goat (Sharp horns symmetrically growing sidewise with twist and bend (SG 1224); Dominican Republic stamp (SG 1104) depicting a goat with small curved and pointed horns growing upwards; Ram with small curving in horns depicted on a stamp of Brazil (SG 778-1949); Sheep of Falkland Islands 1952 issue; Long horn goat of Albania's 1968 stamp; Indias Nilgiri Tahr is an example of small horns - A special cover issued and the cancellation issued on 14-10-80 depict the

same: may be considered enough.

The size of antelopes varies from that of a hare to larger than an ox. Horns may be present in both the sexes or only in the males.

For a few examples the Greater Kudu of East and South Africa stands five feet at the shoulder and has magnificent spiralling horns measuring five feet along the curve. South Africa stamp of 1954 (SG 160) depicts it. Rwanda's 1975 issue (SG 635) and Angola's 1953 issue (SG 505) also depict great Kudu, the white Oryx which is somewhat a larger antelope, has very long horns in both sexes, curving gracefully; hence its alternative name Scimitar Oryx. The stamp of Spanish Sahara issued in 1955 (SG 120) depicts it.

South Africa not only issued stamps depicting Spring bok antelope in their early stamp issues (SG 23) have also printed the early stamps with paper bearing, 'Spring bok's Head', water mark. Spring bok is a South African species; can leap ten feet into the air in stiff-legged jumps. It has short curving forward horns.

Impala is the other true antelope from Africa. It is a good sized antelope living mainly in East Africa, but elsewhere in National Parks. The male has long lyrate horns. Swaziland in 1969 issued a set of 15 wildlife stamps and in one of which Impala has been depicted (SG. 167).

Bushback antelope is graceful animal living in Savanna. Only the males have Lyrate horns, about sixteen inches long (Botswana - 1967) (SG. 238).

Somalia issued a set of 5 Stamps all depicting small antelopes namely Kobus, Gazalla Spekee, Imberbis, hunteri, and clarkee-all depicting various types of horns.

Eland is another antelope from East

Africa. It is a large antelope with straight spirally twisted horns. Eland has been depicted on a Finland stamp in 1942 (SG 264); Angola depicted it in 1953 (SG 490). South West Africa in its Bilingual stamp issue of 1931 depicted Elands on its 1\$ 3d stamp (SG 81).

Coming to certain examples of antlers, we can consider; the Red deer stag, the Sika deer, the fallow deer, the North American Wapili or Elk, the Chital, the Alaskan Bull Moose, and the Reindeer as prominent ones.

The Red deer stag casts his antlers each year and from the bony stalk or pedicel a new pair grows. It is still common in most European countries and is also found in North West Africa and also introduced into New Zealand. West Germany issued a stamp in 1966 (SG 1419) depicting Red Deer. Hungary illustrated the picture of stag in its stamp issued in 1966 (SG.2209) and Mongolia in 1974 (SG. 852).

Sika Deer (Swinhoe's Manchurian Sika) has been depicted on stamps issued by South Korea in 1962 (SG 551). Sika Deer is one of the true deer, native to eastern Asia. The antlers usually have four lines.

The fallow deer has broad, flattered antlers with several small lines. During the breeding season which begins in October the males fight each other with their antlers for possession of the females, by rushing at each other head down. The design of West Germany's 1966 issue of a stamp depicts a Fallow Deer (SG 1418). Israel's 'Natural reserves-Animals of Biblical times' stamp issue depicts Mesopotamian Fallow Deer (SG 471).

The North American Wapili which is depicted in a stamp issued by United States during 1981 (Scott 1886) or Elk which has been depicted as the designs in Russia's 1964 (SG 3005); Poland's 1954 (60g SG

901) and 1965 (1621); and Tuva's 1t (SG 74) stamps, is related to the Red Deer of Europe, but is larger. Its antlers may be five feet long.

The Axis deer or chital also known as spotted deer is a common deer in India and Srilanka. It has three lined antlers and the Sambar deer which ranges from India to Philippines is a similar one. The Chital has been shown as the design of the stamp first in 1965-75 definitive issue (SG 508) and again during 1976 (SG 722).

The Alaskan Bull Moose (U.S. 1978 Miniature sheet depicts Moose as one of the eight wildlife stamps) related to the European Elk, is the largest living deer. It is larger than the Elk and it has finer antlers which may reach a span of seventy eight inches.

The Reindeer of Europe and Asia is a close relative of American Caribou and both sexes have antlers. The Reindeer has been depicted on a stamp issued by Finland in 1960 (SG 621). New contingent issue of 12 stamps in 1919 in various denominations all depict the picture of caribou's head with antlers. Again a Tuva stamp of 1934 beautifully illustrates the picture of Reindeer in its jumping posture, clearly exhibiting its antlers.

Compared to Pronghorn antelope whose horns are of deciduous nature, at the other extreme lie the Chinese water deer (North Korea/1959/SG. N 203) and the musk deer which are the only animals of the cervidae family that do not possess antlers instead they have tusks like upper canines.

Tusks differ from horns and antlers in their origin, morphology, structure and the material of which they are made. However like horns, tusks are used as weapons to attack other animals. Tusk originate from the jaw, while the horns and antlers are out-growths from the top of the skull. Unlike



INDIAN RHINO



AFRICAN RHINO



GOAT



BIG HORN SHEEP



RAM



BUFFELO



EUROPEAN BISON



AFRICAN BUFFELO



ORYX



NYALA



ELAND



KUDU



GREATER KUDU



SABLE ANTELOPE



CARIBOU



SWAMP DEER



BULL MOOSE



REINDEER



STAG



GIRAFFE



CHINESE WATER DEER



TUSKERS



INDIAN ELEPHANT



AFRICAN ELEPHANT



WILD BOAR



BOAR



WART HOG

antlers, Tusks are unbranched and permanent. They cannot be regenerated. Among the tusk-bearing animals elephants are by far the most important.

There are only two species of elephants living to-day. The Asiatic species and the African elephant. Both the male African species and the male Asiatic species bear permanent tusks. Kenya Uganda Tanzania stamps of 1975 (SG 173) depicts an African Elephant in all its splendour as 'Presidential Elephant', the tusks of which are prominently shown in the design. 1964, Burundi issue of 50f (SG 90) stamp boldly depicts the side view of the African species with both the tusks clearly projecting in front. Guinea's 1967 issue (SG 610) is another example, the head with tusks is illustrated as facing straight at us. Liberia's stamps 1904 (SG 145) and 1921 (SG 270) depict African Elephant. However these are only a few examples as in all other earlier cases.

The African Elephant is larger than the Indian species and has a sloping head and enormous ears. The tusks are also larger in the African species. Whereas the Asiatic or Indian Elephant is smaller than the African species and has relatively small ears and a domed forehead. The female of the Indian species does not bear any tusk. Again neither the male nor the female of the race in Sri Lanka grows any tusk. Indian Elephant was shown as part of the design in the higher denomination stamps during George V and George VI period (SG 185 to 191 and SG 259 to 264) where the tip of the tusks have been shown as blunt edged. However after obtaining Independence India issued numerous stamps depicting its Elephant (SG 309; SG 334; SG 474; SG 507; SG 684). Russia issued a stamp in 1964 (SG 3002) depicting the Asiatic specie.

While Elephants have conspicuous tusks. Boars have a pair or two small tusks and in addition show a pair of warty excrescences as in African wild hogs. Ivory coast has issued stamps depicting Wart hog, during 1963 in denominations of 15f and 20f (SG 232 and 233 respectively). wild Boar has been depicted on a 10c 1971 stamp of Hongkong. Some of the other stamps depicting Wart hog being Ethiopia/1975 (SG 926); Rwanda/1972 (SG 460); Agnola/1953 (SG 502); French Somali Coast/1958 (SG 432) and Loas/20K (SG 300).

Walrus is another animal which has tusks. It lives in herds of about a hundred and feeds chiefly on crabs and molluscs. They may reach 16 feet in length and adults of both sexes have tusks. These have greatly enlarged canine teeth and are used in defence. Canada's 1953. National wild life week's stamp issue (SG 448) depicts walrus with two canine teeth. The Atlantic walrus is found in Arctic waters. The Pacific walrus the other kind has larger and slightly divergent tusks and inhabits the Bearing Sea.

Narwhal another tusker; a close relative of the white whale. It reaches a length of from twelve to fifteen feet, excluding the tusk. In males, one of the teeth, generally from the left grows enormously as a straight twisted tusk which may reach a length of about 8 feet. This animal has been depicted in Canada's wildlife issue of 1968 5c stamp (SG 622)

Going through the catalogue one may easily find more and more examples in each of the categories and if one takes some real interest in this theme. With the numerous other supporting materials like, FDCs, Spl. Cancellations, Maximum Cards, Miniature sheets, Meter Cancellations etc., can make out a very unique, beautiful and interesting collection.

Ecology, the need of the hour

R. Vaidyanathan

The role of postal department all over the world has assumed significance not because of its general service to its people, but because the way it helps spread several national and international messages which are of concern to the entire humanity.

Postage stamps which carry the messages of a particular campaign becomes part of the history. The medium of philately is in fact more powerful than audio, visual, and print media.

Now philatelists all over the world have begun to choose subjects dear to them. Their efforts culminate in a fascinating collection and subjects like medicine, red cross, scouts, Rotary, wildlife, forestry, pollution, population, education etc. get more prominence than general collections.

Of all the subjects, currently ecology demands more attention.

To highlight the dangers posed by ecological imbalances, environmental pollution caused by the growing industrialisation, and indiscriminate felling of trees on one pretext or the other, everyone concerned with the welfare of the mankind has been doing his best at national and international level.

Ecological imbalances come through deforestation and poaching. Animal

skins, particularly of the Bengal tiger and leopard, and reptile skins, snake and alligator, are being exported to foreign countries. Though the forest department swoops down on poachers there has been no end to illegal poaching.

Our other major hazard of urbanisation is pollution, which is generated by the hundreds and thousands of motor vehicles and the large and small scale industries. The release of carbon monoxide and other obnoxious gases is too alarming a situation and has begun to affect the normal health of a person. Industrial houses' indirect contribution to water pollution has reached an unbelievable level. The effluents released by the tannery industry has contaminated our water ways and eradicated many varieties of marine life.

Another major factor that has global effect is population explosion, which has been going on at an alarming speed at a time when medication, food production and primary education are moving at a snail's pace.

To arrest the present trend and to set right the ecological imbalances everyone has to do something.

As a token contribution to this big cause, the South India Philatelists' Association, Madras is conducting this ECOPEX-95.

'Life In Tune With Nature - A Must.

By M. T. Karunakaran

The German scientist Earnest Haeckel (1834-1919) in 1869 proposed the word Oekologie which is now used as 'ecology'. Ecology according to him was the discipline dealing with interactions of animals and plants and abiotic environment surrounding them.

Ecology embraces interrelations between plants and animals and their complete environment. Ecology is a basic approach to the conservation of natural resources both renewable and non-renewable and interlinks the sciences of Zoology and Botany.

Life on our planet originated much earlier than man came into existence. Mental set up of man has made him a super animal. He is the greatest consumer and is using the natural resources and energy at an alarmingly rapid rate. He creates favourable environment for his welfare and in doing so, many a times, he forgets that he is just a small component of nature and by disturbing the environmental balance, he is inviting trouble. There are thousands of examples to illustrate this statement.

Clearing of forests, building roads and dams, industrial set ups and urbanisation, sewer and waste disposal, shifting cultivation, canal irrigation, use of herbicides, atomic explosions etc., are some of the activities which are rapidly changing the environment of our planet. It has been estimated that the CO₂ content of the atmosphere has increased by 13% of the normal value (0.03%) during the last 100 years of the industrial growth. This increase has affected the energy budget of our planet and temperature of atmosphere is gradually increasing, in consequence, introducing climatic changes. In industrial areas the dust, smoke and acid fumes are causing severe pollution problems which are affecting man in various ways. These problems are of global nature as they disturb the environmental equilibrium. In order to live and let live, man has to be educated to a proper understanding of the environment and management of natural resources.

A healthy environment for development of any organism should have the following conditions:



- a) space for growth and movement
- b) Air in fresh condition and sufficient quantity
- c) Water for nutrient transport and food formation
- d) Biogenic salts and minerals for body building
- e) Energy for life processes



Space for growth and movement :

Land surface is only 1/3rd of the water surface on the earth. The environment all over the surface is not uniform and vast areas in the Arctic and Antarctic regions and on high mountains and hot deserts are devoid of vegetation. Nevertheless, in tropics and temperate regions there are areas fully covered with vegetation. The aerial plants get light and air while the roots get minerals from the soil and water from different depths. Then the plants get life requirements from the limited space through adjustment of shoots and root systems.



A similar situation is observed in cities where multistoried buildings provide answer to accommodation problems. But competition for space light and nourishment leads to differences in growth behaviour and morphological adaptation in plants, the animals move or migrate to new areas.

Atmosphere :

The factors of atmosphere which influence the organisms are a) gaseous components, b) wind velocity and direction, and c) atmosphere pollution.



Gaseous components-air and vapour :

Atmosphere as the home, gaseous components like O_2 , CO_2 , N_2 and water vapour, etc. which are present in varying proportions (N_2 78%, O_2 21% CO_2 0.03%). The atmosphere envelop is approximately 300 km thick all over the earth. It moderates the solar energy reaching the biosphere. Oxygen is used during respiration by all living organisms, and is also utilised during weathering of rocks in soil formation processes.



Wind :

Air in motion is wind. Wind causes mixing of gases

and is an important factor of the environment. On land surface it effects evaporation, transpiration, pollination, dispersal of plant propagules, and at times causes damage and uproots the plants. Besides, it effects erosion and deposition of soil specially in sandy habitats. Vegetation reduces the velocity of wind to a great extent and in forests with closed canopy the velocity is reduced by 80%. On mountains, wind velocity increases with increasing attitude and at timber line the high velocity causes deformation and dwarfing of the trees. Sea breeze also causes deformation of trees in the coastal regions. Salt spray is carried with the wind and damages the growing regions (buds) of the tree on the wind-ward side facing the sea.



Atmosphere Pollution :

Besides the gases, the atmosphere contains many more substances like dust, smoke and water vapour, etc., which create problems of atmospheric pollution. The polluted atmosphere is injurious to living organisms. The dust, smoke and fog obstruct the incoming light energy from the sun and the gaseous fumes from the industries and urban fuel consumption create foul air for human health.



Biogenic salts and minerals :

Soil is the home of biogenic salts and minerals which are essential for organic existence. The fertile soil, support 3/4th of the Indian population. In the terrestrial environment, from the ecological point of view, the intake and loss of water are of great importance as these processes are conditioned by the environment.



Energy :

The driving force in all ecological systems is energy and on our planet the main source of energy is the sun.

Earth is a very small object in the solar system, and receives only one-fifty millionth of total solar radiations bathing the universe. This solar energy, in its journey from the sun to the earth's surface is very much moderated while it passes through the stratosphere and the atmospheric envelop surrounding the earth. In the strato-



sphere lies the ozone region which checks the harmful ultra violet radiations. If the ozone layer was not there the ultra violet radiations would reach the biosphere and annihilate all life from the earth.

Light energy is responsible for the photochemical activities of the plants, like photosynthesis.

Thus we see that energy has a one way passage in the ecological system. Light energy emanating from the sun is fired into the plant body and ultimately through the food chain it is dissipated as heat energy into the environment but never returns to the sun.

Heat affects the physical, chemical and biological reactions of the environment. Sunlight falling on the land surface causes heating effect. From the earth's environment heat radiates to outer space. Wind ocean currents, evaporation, rainfall, relative humidity, etc. are certain temperature conditioned aspects of the environment which influence the organic reactions.

Fire :

Fire is an ecological factor in the terrestrial environment especially in the temperate and tropical regions where the deciduous habit of the trees permit accumulation of a thick litter deposit on the forest floor. In nature, forest fires have been caused by lightning during thunder-storms. When lightning strikes tall trees it sets them ablaze and if there is litter around on the ground a forest fire starts. Sometimes, the falling rocks from mountain tops produce sparks due to friction, when they strike with another rock and on account of these sparks the grasses and litter nearby are set ablaze. In the dry deciduous forests of Vindhya in India, case have been reported where forest fires are caused in the bamboo groves during the summer. The bamboos rub against each other and cause fire due to friction and the grove along with the dry litter is set ablaze.

Fire is a tool in grassland and wild life preservation practices. Controlled fires provide good fodder to grazing animals, as, much of the dried up unpalatable material is burned and the new growth provides good fodder. Fire whether natural or man-made and their recurrence at any place do affect the biotic and abiotic complexes of the environment.



Environment in aquatic habitats:

Existence of water on our planet is responsible for occurrence of all living organisms on the earth. Approximately 80% of the earth's surface is covered with water. 97% of water is in the seas and oceans and 2% is frozen in polar ice caps and glaciers, only 1% of the total water constituting fresh water system is used by the numerous types of plants, animals and man for their existence.

Aquatic environment provides two types of habitats for the existence of life : (1) Marine habitat and (2) Freshwater habitat. All fresh water exists in land bound areas, in the lakes, pools, ponds and rivers. The third type of aquatic habitat is also important from the ecological view point, and that is the estuaries of the rivers. Estuaries are formed where the rivers join the sea and the freshwater mingles with the salt water diluting the concentration of salts. In the estuaries we find a mixing of the freshwater and marine plants and animals in varying proportions.

Again in stagnant water in the Dal Lake at Srinagar (Kashmir) a large number of floating islands have formed, which are now utilised for vegetable cultivation and dwelling purposes.

Environmental issues:

With the present civilisation and population growth, man is exploiting the resources and damaging the environment at an alarmingly rapid rate. Man does not deliberately damage his own environment, but to satisfy his growing needs- he is adding acreage in agriculture, applying fertilizer and biocides- to increase crop production, rears cattle, builds roads, establishes industries, exploits mineral resources, burns fossil fuels and conducts nuclear tests, etc. all such activities involve side-effects which are environmentally harmful.

Environmental problems are common concern to all and for their solution international efforts are essential. UNESCO in 1972 formed a separate wing known as United Nations Environmental programme (UNEP) with headquarters at Nairobi in Kenya. UNEP with the help of governmental and non-governmental agencies is busy identifying critical environmental issues which need



immediate attention at global level.

Ecological implication of environmental issues :

Food:

Man obtains his food supplies from plant and animal sources. Increasing acreage, green revolution and improved methods of harvesting the sea fauna has appreciably eased the present food situation. Nevertheless serious ecological problems are associated with improved agriculture activities. Massive irrigation is considered harmful to fertility owing to salination. Depletion of underground water resources is posing a problem to irrigation and use of sea water for irrigation purposes is being experimented in Israel.

Desertification :

Desertification is the diminution or destruction of the biological potential of land, which can lead ultimately to the desertlike conditions. Such a condition could arise due to overgrazing, indiscriminate felling of trees, increased salinity and alsalinity and over exploration of land resources.

Natural calamities:

Nature is bountiful but at times unpredictable changes occur, which cause large scale devastation and bring misery to mankind. Occurance of floods, famine, drought, storm and gale, volcanic eruptions and epidemics have changed the entire ecology of vast areas.

Environmental Pollution:

Pollution is an undesirable change in the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of our air, water and soil that may or will harmfully affect human life, industrial progress, living conditions and cultural assets. Pollution is a man-made problem and at present it is a problem of affluent countries.

Air Pollution:

Air is easily polluted by gases, smoke, dust, etc. which are lighter objects and get mixed up in the atmosphere. A continued increase in excess unabsorbed



carbondioxide could have a catastrophic warning effect. Melting of the polar ice, changes in this ecology of the seas, even floods on an underated scale are among the potential consequences.

Water Pollution:

Effluents from industry and human settlements are being increasingly let out at such a rate that many great rivers and lakes have turned murky. The industrial waste dumped in the sea and oil spills have been killing marine life and ruining the beaches.

Noise Pollution:

It is now well-known that high intensity sound not only disturbs a man but also it permanently damages hearing. Increased traffic, booming of jet planes and crowded streets in urban areas are sources of increasing noise pollution.

Radio-active Pollution:

Nuclear tests and diabolical weapons of war using nuclear power are the greatest threat to the present day world and for the future generation. Nuclear bomb when exploded can char wood and even ignite it within 16 kilometres from the site of explosion. The temperature at the point of explosion is so high that the metals and minerals not only melt but are vapourised.

During the explosion all the radio active substances formed are rapidly injected into the upper layers of the atmosphere where, due to cooling, they condense and finally forming into a very fine dust suspend in the air at an attitude of about 8 to 15 km forming together with water vapour. This radio active cloud travelling all over the world settles down slowly on the earth.

About 5 percent of the matter injected into air in all kinds of nuclear explosions consists of radio-active strontium-90 which is easily absorbed by living organisms. It poisons the water, the air, the soil and is absorbed by the grasses and by vegetables thus getting directly or indirectly by way of cows milk and animal meat into the human body. There it accumulates in the bones, where it may produce cancer. India is one of the few countries to have comprehensive environmental regulation, but the implementation of pollution control measures has been



rather weak. The Bhopal accident has led to a greater awareness and concern for safety, environmental degradation and hazardous spills and storage. However under the new Environmental Protection Act, apart from air and water pollution, hazardous substances have been brought under its scope of environmental regulations.

How to face the problems:

The problems have to be faced in many ways

1. To educate people at all levels to conserve the environmental resources and not to pollute the environment.

2. To find ways and means to effectively reduce the pollution hazards which are already existing.

3. Resource management education should be imparted at all levels and to all sectors of the community. Proper readable material and audio visual devices should be made available on large scale basis for wide use in such educational programmes. Conservation clubs, anti-pollution weeks and demonstration trips to factory sites, sewer discharge points and garbage dumping grounds may be organised at school and college levels to acquaint the youth with the various ecological problems around us and make them understand that living in tune with nature is a must.

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Plants, Trees and Flowers on Indian Stamps

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Ecology is defined as a science of eco system studying the interaction between the living organisms and their environment. Obviously the whole world can be considered as a giant eco system. Plants are part of life on our earth. India with a vast land mass and having different climatic conditions as a unique nation with larger flora and fauna. It is considered as a land of contrasts in more ways than one. While Rajasthan in the West experiences a high temperature and very low rain fall, the North East receives the heaviest rainfall. There are swampy regions like Sunderbans with tidal water on the one hand high snow clad mountains on the other. Though geographically India is a vast country, the whole of Gangetic plains lie outside the tropics. The strong monsoonic climate differentiates India from other tropical regions of the world.

Vegetation in Indian subcontinent is influenced by biotic factors as well as human culture for a long time. Several factors are responsible for the occurrence of a variety of vegetational types in this country. Few other countries of comparable size possess such a rich and variable vegetation as India. We have climatic forests with lofty trees of more than 45 metres in height. The shrubs, woody climbers and epiphytes are in abundance. Important plants in the tropical forests are the species of Terminalia, Bambusa, Ixora, Calamus, Vitis, Bauhinia, Andina, etc. In the tropical grasslands the dominant species are Andropogan, Contortus, Saccharum, Munja, etc. The temperate forests commonly called "Sholas" contain the spe-

cles of Eugenia, Orchidaceae, Piperaceae. The aquatic vegetation in India is affected by mineral salts, depth of water, temperature and light intensity. The aquatic plants are Hydrophytes including Utricularia, Pistia, Trapa, Eichhornia, Lemna, etc.

The Mangrove flora which occurs in our estuary are found near Calcutta in Hugly river and Sunderbans. The Eastern Himalayan vegetation is considered to be one of the richest vegetation unique in the world and consists of several species of plants which are native of foreign countries such as China, Japan, Burma, Malaysia and European Countries. The tropical forests contain some 5 to 10 million plants and animal species found nowhere in the world. There are numerous drug yielding plants available in these tropical forests.

The Department of Post has issued several stamps on the rich and varied flora of the country. The first to appear was the Lotus in 1954 by the side of the UN emblem. Brought on turquoise blue, the stamp was priced at 2 annas and was released to commemorate United Nations Day. Two years after, the stamp depicting Bodhi Tree was released on the occasion of Buddha Jayanthi. In 1965 two stamps each on coffee berries and plucking tea were issued. A hybrid coconut palm tree appeared in the stamp in 1976 on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Coconut Research.

In 1977 a set of four multi-coloured stamps depicting Indian flowers, Lotus, Rhododendron, Kadamba and Gloriosa lily valued at 25 paise to one rupee were

released. In the same year a symbolic representation of ear of a corn was printed on the stamp during the Apriexpo 77 held at New Delhi.

Apples and oranges were the first fruits to appear on Indian Stamps in 1979. In the same year, stamps depicting forests, cotton plants and cashew were released. The next two years saw beautiful Flowering Trees and Himalayan Flowers on stamps. The multi coloured stamps on trees contained "Flame of the Forest", *Crateva*, *Golder Shower*, *Bahunia*. Under the Himalayan Flowers appeared *Meconopsis*, *Aculeata*, *Inula grandiflora*, *Arisaema*, *Wallactianum* and *Saussurea ohvallata*.

Roses made their first appearance on Indian Stamps in 1984. "Mrinalini" and "Sugandha" were the set of two multi coloured stamps released on 23.12.84. Followed in the next year was another set of two stamps depicting the brightly coloured bracts, *Bougainvillea*, named after the French Navigator, Louis Antoine de Bougainvillea. The two varieties featured on the stamps, i.e. Mahara and H.B. Singh are the finest cultivars popularly grown during major part of the year in India.

Potato plant, a native of Andean tropical highlands of South America from where it was taken to Europe and other parts of the world including India, was printed on the stamp in 1985. The occasion was the 50th Year of Potato Research in India. The Research Institute developed nearly 23 important cultivars of which the most popular "Kufri Jyoti" is shown in the Stamp.

On 19.11.87, four Indian Trees, the Sal, a large deciduous tree which finds a mention in the Ramayana and the Mahabharatha, the Peepal tree (*Ficus Religiose* Linn), which is venerated by the Hindus and Bhuddists, the Chinar (*Platious Orientalis*) which has medicinal value and the beautiful Banyan tree be-

longing to Genus *ficus* were printed on stamps.

Among the stamps released in early 90's the stamps on Flowering Trees and Orchids of India are most beautiful and are considered as the pride possessions of the Philatelists. Still, even small countries such as Cuba, Camphuchea and Nicaragua have brought out beautiful stamps on flowers and trees. India is not a country of dearth of flowers of myriad colours and shapes which transform the landscape. There is scope for bringing out more attractive stamps on flowers such as *Urechites Lutea*, *Bletia*, *Purpuria*, *Lilium Pardalinum*, *Helianthe*, etc.

In the recent years there is awareness among the people on the need for growing more trees and keeping their environment clean. However, the natural vegetation has undergone a drastic biotic change because of sprawling population. Large tracts of forests have been cleared for cultivation and settlement. The growth of population has accelerated the indiscriminate felling of trees which adversely affects the eco bio system. Mere propagation of conservation of nature is not enough to save the world from the dwindling resources. The need of the hour is to tackle the problems of habitat, population and natural resources. To create a sense of awareness, more and more stamps need to be issued on nature, in as much as plants, trees and forests are not only a part of the life cycle in our bio sphere, but are also a rich store house of renewable resources.

Releasing of more and more stamps on these topics will create more awareness on the ecological problems, provide knowledge to deal with the problems and also pave way for increased participation and involvement on the protection and conservation. This will give new vigour to combat and control pollution of over-population and misuse of natural resources.

Conservation Issues

Brig. D.S. Virk, AVSM (Retd.)

For more than half a century far-seeing naturalists, economists, and scientists have been warning the peoples and rulers of the world that our habitat, the earth, will reach the house full mark towards the end of this century and there will be a catastrophic disaster thereafter unless action is taken immediately to limit population, conserve natural resources, and provide a healthy environment for the co-existence of man with animal and plant life. Thanks to these warnings, many national and international bodies have come into being to propagate the cause of environmental protection and nature conservation.

Ever since the postage stamp assumed the role of an attractive poster and persuader, stamp-issuing countries have used it to display their characteristic fauna and flora, attractive countryside, national parks, scenic mountains, lakes, rivers, and forests. This was originally an exercise in national pride, or tourist or trade propaganda, without any conscious intention of promoting nature conservation or protecting wildlife.

The nature conservationists registered their first philatelic success when Canada, which had issued its first animal stamp (the 3-pence beaver) in 1851, began in 1953 an annual issue on its National Wildlife Week. In 1955 two French colonies - French Equatorial Africa and French West Africa - brought out postage stamps on indigenous wildlife with the inscription "Nature Protection". A year later, the US came out with the first of its many wildlife issues. Since then hundreds of stamps have

been released on this attractive and topical subject. Thanks to these stamps, the whole range of world fauna is now familiar to stamp users and collectors.

India Stamps Ahead

India was fairly early in the field of wildlife protection. The Bombay Natural History Society led the campaign for the protection of wildlife and was successful in getting the necessary legislation passed in 1952 in Bombay Presidency (its home state). Later that year the Government of India appointed a Wildlife Conservation Committee which was subsequently converted into a Board. Under its direction, the first wildlife sanctuary was established in the large forest of Kaziranga as the home for the dwindling rhino. The famous Kanha National Park was set up in 1955 for the conservation of the tiger, blackbuck, and gaur.

The celebration of Wildlife Week in October 1961 was highlighted with the issue of colourful stamp on the Indian one-hundred rhinoceros. This fitted in very well in the set of five wildlife preservation stamps issued in 1963 on the gaur, Himalayan panda, Indian elephant, tiger, and Indian lion. Many other stamps have been issued subsequently on these and other wild animals with the accent, explicit or implied, on their protection and conservation.

Conservation Posthaste

The conservation movement, which now embraced the much wider concept of protecting the balance of nature for

the benefit of man and all other forms of life, gathered pace during the 1950s and 1960s under the guidance of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The new concept was first publicized in postage stamps of the East German issues of 1957 and 1959 which depicted such varied denizens of the natural habitat as the thistle, lizard, orchid, heron, bittern, lily and butterflies, beaver, and bee, and the willow catkin. Monaco followed in 1961 with a striking stamp showing an insect held in the palm of a protective human hand. Great Britain and Ceylon celebrated nature and conservation weeks in 1963 with stamps showing posies of wild flowers and woodland life. When the IUCN added the protection of natural resources to its charter, Venezuela signalled the change of 1968 with the issue of a large set of ten stamps, ranging from a "Child planting a tree" to a "Bird feeding its young".

In 1961, the conservationists were reinforced by the emergence of a powerful new ally, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) with its now famous symbol, the panda. When French naturalists persuaded their post office to issue its first nature conservation stamp in 1969, showing the Mediterranean Moufflon, the panda symbol formed part of its design. (In 1971, on the birthday of WWF's patron, Prince Bernhard, the panda became the subject of a Netherlands 20 cent stamp).

IUCN's 10th general assembly was held at New Delhi in November 1969. A special 20-paise stamp showing a tiger's head against the background of protective hands holding the globe was released on 24 November to mark the

occasion.

The conservation movement gained momentum with Europe's celebration of 1970 as the European Conservation Year. More than 20 countries issued one or more stamps during the year, covering the whole gamut of nature conservation, ranging from the habitat (land, air, and water) to the inhabiting flora (flowers, plants, and trees) and fauna (animals, reptiles, birds, and fishes). Of all these, the most appealing design was that of the Eire six- and nine-pence stamps showing a stylized bird on a stylized tree.

In the early seventies it became apparent that mere protection and conservation of nature were not enough to save the earth from the inexorable pressure of the teeming billions on its dwindling resources. After many preliminary studies the United Nations convened, in Stockholm in 1972, a world conference on Human Environment which discussed all aspects of nature conservation, prudent use of natural resources, and the protection of air, water, and land from pollution.

Green Issues

Some countries had already anticipated the new approach in messages on their stamps. Liechtenstein led the way in 1965 by issuing a set of four stamps on Wholesome Earth, Pure Air, Clean Water, and Energy from the Sun. The US in 1967 and Italy in 1970 highlighted urban planting in their issues. Monaco in 1971 depicted a polluted seabird on a 50-cent stamp. The Stockholm conference, its emblem, and motto (Only One Earth) were widely publicized in at-

tractive designs and messages on the stamps of many nations.

Plants, trees, and forests are not only a part of the life cycle in our biosphere, they are also a rich storehouse of renewable resources. Some countries had portrayed forests and forestry in their stamps, and India joined them in 1961 with a beautiful stamp on its Himalayan forests, to commemorate a century of scientific forestry. Many others have followed with stamps on their historic, scenic, and productive forests.

Trees have a place of their own in human heritage and economy. Hence almost every country has issued stamps on its trees. The one that takes my fancy above all is the 60-franc Niger stamp of 1974 commemorating the first death anniversary of a famous landmark, the Tenere Tree, which for ages guided caravans to safety in the Great Sahara desert (North Africa). Pakistan issued special stamps in 1974, 1975, and 1977 on Tree Planting Day.

Population Press

What can environmentalists do to improve the quality of life if world population continues to increase at an alarming rate? The countries of South East Asia most affected by this rising spiral—Nepal, India, Pakistan and Indonesia—issued stamps in 1964, 1966, 1969 and 1973 respectively to propagate the need for family planning. The world took notice of this menacing problem when 1974 was declared by the United Nations (UN) as World Population Year (WPY). No less than 25 countries, besides the UN Postal Administration, issued stamps on the population theme in 1974.

Surprisingly, the graphic artists have not shown much ingenuity and imagination in designing the population stamps. Most of them were content with showing the Population Year were content with showing the Population Year emblem or a small and happy family group. Of the four designs I like best, that of the Singapore stamp is perhaps the simplest and the most effective. It shows the national family emblem opposite the slogan "Plan Your Family Small" in large letters. The South Korean stamp has, below the WPY emblem, a see-saw on which a stylized small family group is balanced by a large ram's head (a traditional symbol of prosperity). The stamp of Thailand captures the essence of the theme with an unending march of the increasing populace, as does the stamp of St. Kitts with a plethora of hands reaching for the globe. Considering the urgency of the issue, a greater effort in philatelic persuasion is clearly indicated.

NEW IMPRESSIONS

In the new environment crusade, which now has the dedicated support of the United Nations, besides other international and national organizations, the emphasis is on prevention of pollution, proper use of land, control of harmful pesticides and fertilizers, conservation of energy and other non-renewable natural resources, and saving of the endangered species of fauna and flora. Stamps on the 1970s naturally propagated these new trends.

Stamps on soil conservation have been issued by the US, Lesotho, Zambia, and Pakistan. Water conservation has been the theme of a US issue in 1959 and a Zambia issue of 1972. The impact of high oil prices roused the world's larg-

est consumer, the US, the issue a stamp in 1974 to persuade its citizens to conserve energy.

IUCN maintains in its red Data Book an accurate record of all the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, invertebrates, and plants which are known to be in danger. These are classified as 'Endangered', 'Vulnerable', and 'Rare'. The stamp issuing authorities have recently taken up with enthusiasm the cause of endangered species, and new stamps on fauna and flora are broadcasting the environment message to the whole world.

Conserving our environment is of crucial importance today, and this concern is reflected in the stamps issued by postal authorities all over the world.

These issues reflect the status of natural resources, and wild fauna and flora of the country of origin, as well as various international symbols for conservation such as the whale, panda, clean air, and water.

Since 1974, India has issued stamps to celebrate the International Dairy Conference, the Himalaya, flowering trees, butterflies, birds, and flowers, as also national parks such as Corbett and Bharatpur. In 1978 a special set of four stamps was released to celebrate Wildlife Week. To mark the 15th anniversary of Project Tiger, a stamp depicting a tiger against a jungle background was released in 1988. Every year, the department of posts releases at least one set of stamps with an environmental theme.

Our Thanks

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**SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS ASSOCIATION
MADRAS**