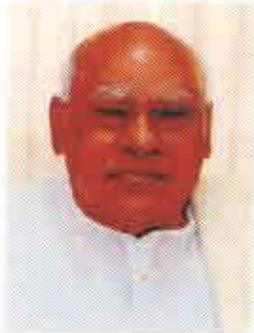


SHAMBHU KALLOLIKAR, I.A.S.
SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
RAJ BHAVAN
CHENNAI - 600 022
Phone : (044) 22351700
Fax : (044) 22350570
(044) 22301300
E-mail : govsec@tn.nic.in



Dt. 14.09.2011

MESSAGE

His Excellency Dr.K.Rosaiah, Governor of Tamil Nadu is pleased to learn that the South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai is holding the Stamp Exhibition "SIPEX 2011" from 7-9 October 2011 at Chennai under the patronage of the Deptt. of Posts, Government of India.

His Excellency the Governor conveys his warm felicitations to the President, SIPA and to all the participants and wishes "SIPEX 2011" all success.


(SHAMBHU KALLOLIKAR)

To

Thiru G.Balakrishna Das,
President,
South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA),
No.41, Perianna Maistry Street,
1st Floor, Periamet,
Chennai – 600 003.

मिलिंद देवरा
MILIND DEORA



राज्य मंत्री
संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110001
Minister of State for
Communications & Information Technology
Government of India
New Delhi-110001



MESSAGE

I am very pleased to know that the South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai is organizing a stamp exhibition titled, SIPEX 2011 during October 7-9, 2011 at Chennai.

Over the last five decades South India Philatelists' Association has carved a unique name for itself as a collection centre of stamps issued by a large number of countries around the world including rare stamps.

I am confident this exhibition will provide a great opportunity to scholars/philatelists to rededicate themselves to the cause of this Association with renewed zeal and commitment.

I wish the exhibition SIPEX 2011 and Souvenir a grand success.

(MILIND DEORA)



शान्ती नायर

मुख्य पोस्टमास्टर जनरल
तमिलनाडु परिमंडल
चेन्नई : 600 002

SHANTHI NAIR

Chief Postmaster General
Tamilnadu Circle,
Chennai 600002

भारतीय डाक



D.O.No.PHIL/5-35/2011

06-09-2011

MESSAGE

I am happy that South India Philatelists' Association is organizing a State Level Philatelic Exhibition "SIPEX-2011" from 7th October, 2011 to 9th October 2011 at Chennai.

Promoting philately is an important activity of India Post. Philately - the collection and study of stamps is one of the most popular hobbies. Postage stamps provide a kaleidoscopic glimpse of our historic and national heritage.

South India Philatelists' Association has done pioneering work for the promotion of Philately. This Philatelic exhibition will enlighten and enthuse young stamp collectors, while providing a platform to veterans for a meaningful exchange of ideas and views.

I am sure that "SIPEX-2011" will achieve the goals set, and the Exhibition will attract new entrants into this fascinating and wonderful WORLD OF STAMPS.

(SHANTHI NAIR)



PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA

Registered under Societies Registration Act, 1880

Dilip Shah

Secretary General

MESSAGE

I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION WILL BE ORGANISING SIPEX'11 PHILATELIC EXHIBITION IN A GRAND MANNER WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PHILATELY.

ON THIS OCCASION , I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY GREETING TO THE ORGANIZERS AND WISH THEM ALL SUCCESS IN THEIR ENDEAVOUR.

(Dilip Shah)
President/Secretary-General,

S. Brahmanandam

Chief Postmaster General (Retd.)

Chennai

28 September 2011



Dear Shri Balakrishna Das,

I am glad to learn that the South India Philatelists' Association, Chennai (SIPA) is organizing its thirteenth philatelic exhibition at Chennai from 7th to 9th October 2011.

It gives me immense pleasure to know that SIPA has been doing creditable service in the field of philately since 1956 and conducted state and national level exhibitions on various important themes like ecology, environment, arts, culture and modern technological advancements. It is heartening to note that one of subjects chosen for a special cover to be released during this exhibition relates to global warming which is of great topical importance owing to the rapid destruction of nature by man in his quest for greater industrialization and material welfare.

The postage stamp, apart from serving a legal tender, also plays an excellent medium for propagating the culture of a nation. It carries with it a message for all who are responsive to the beauty of its colour and design, and without any barrier of caste, creed, race or religion. In a stamp exhibition one could see under one roof a myriad portrayal of almost every aspect of our existence in tiny bits of paper called 'stamps'.

I congratulate the organizers and wish SIPEX 2011 every success.

S. Brahmanandam



September 30, 2011.

Dear Shri Balakrishna Das,

I am glad to learn that the South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA) is organizing its thirteenth philatelic exhibition at Chennai from 7th to 9th October 2011.

It gives me immense pleasure to know that SIPA has been doing creditable service in the field of philately since 1956 and conducted state and national level exhibitions on various important themes like ecology, environment, arts, culture and technology.

The postage stamp, apart from being a legal tender, also serves as an excellent medium for propagating the culture of a nation and its developments in all aspects. It carries with it a message for all who are responsive to the beauty of its colour and design, and without any barrier of caste, creed, race or religion. In a stamp exhibition one could see under one roof a myriad portrayal of almost every aspect of our existence in tiny bits of paper called 'stamps'.

I congratulate the organizers and wish SIPEX 2011 every success.


(K.NOORJEHAN)

Shri G.Balakrishna Das
President
South India Philatelists Association
Chennai 600 003

MEERA HANDA
DY. DIRECTOR GENERAL
(PHILATELY)



सत्यमेव जयते

भारत सरकार
संचार एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
डाक विभाग
डाक भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 116

Government of India
Ministry of Communications & IT
Department of Posts
Dak Bhawan, New Delhi-110 116

MESSAGE

It gives me great pleasure to know that South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA) is organizing the National Philatelic Exhibition "SIPEX-2011" from 7-9 October, 2011 at Chennai.

I hope that the exhibition will provide a rich fare both for the amateur and the veteran philatelists.

I extend my warm wishes for the success of this enterprise.



(Meera Handa)

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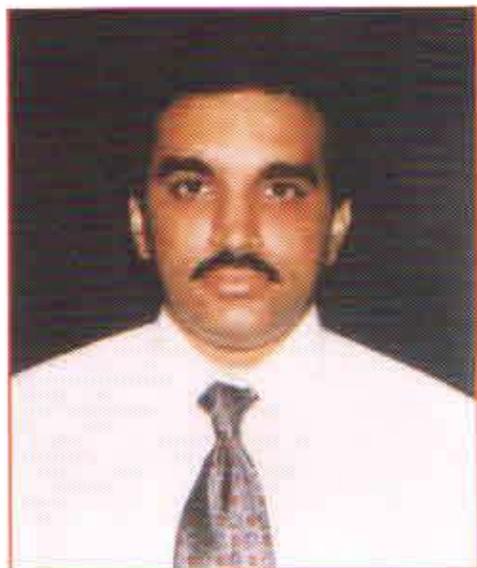
SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION



Smt Shanthi Nair
Chief Postmaster General, Chennai

Patron
SIPEX 2011

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION



Ajit Kumar Chordia

Chairman

SIPEX 2011



South India Philatelists' Association

41, Perianna Maistry Street, Periamet
Chennai 600 003

www.sipa.org.in

email: sipagold@gmail.com

Chairman's Message

South India Philatelists' Association (SIPA), which is in its 55th year of service to the cause of promoting the hobby of Stamp Collecting, is conducting "SIPEX '11" Philatelic Exhibition.

The primary object of this Philatelic Exhibition is to inculcate the hobby of Stamp Collecting in School Children and Youth. This hobby will also be adding great educational value to the children.

The Postal Stamps depict all aspects of human life and the hobby has become very popular, adding educational value.

In addition to the above, today, world over Philately has also become an alternate investment avenue and offers excellent protection against recessionary tendencies and the uncertainties facing the financial market.

The team of dedicated philatelists from all age groups – old and young, which forms the base of SIPA, has taken the lead in organizing this Exhibition for the cause which is very dear to them.

With the continued involvement of the Senior Members and our Sponsors and under the guidance and patronage of the Chief Post Master, Tamil Nadu Circle, we embark on presenting one of the finest State Level Philatelic Exhibition the country has seen.

Looking forward to your wholehearted support, co-operation and involvement in all our endeavours.

Best Wishes

Ajit Kumar Chordia
Chairman, SIPEX 2011



South India Philatelists' Association

41, Perianna Maistry Street, Periamet
Chennai 600 003

www.sipa_org.in

email: sipagold@gmail.com

President's Message

We all know that stamp collecting is a fascinating pastime and well known as a king of hobbies. I am indeed proud that the South India Philatelists' Association is conducting its thirteenth exhibition with the patronage of the Department of Posts.

The exhibition is a platform for many philatelists to reach the next level in displaying their talents and moving forward. The exhibition will also transform many stamp collectors to become seasoned philatelists.

I take this opportunity to thank the Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle for extending support and cooperation to SIPA in holding the exhibition in a grand manner.

I am sure the organizing committee is doing excellent coordination with all those who are involved, to make the exhibition a great success.

With a variety of stamps, neatly arranged and annotated, the visitor can be an arm chair traveller, journeying across the continents, mingling with the mightiest, delighting at the marvelous and savouring of life in all its beauty and grandeur.

G. Balakrishna Das
President, SIPA

SIPA OFFICE BEARERS

President

G. Balakrishna Das

Vice-Presidents

G. Amarchand

M.R. Ranganathan

Secretaries

Rolands J Nelson

G. Anil Kumar

Treasurer

C.G.Bhaskar

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S.K. Lakshmanan

V.K. Mohan

B.Mahesh

Dilip Saboo

Dr. T. Murugavel

Dr. Mohan

S. Balasundaram

V. Ethiraj

Madanchand Darda

Bhadresh Meghani

Past Presidents

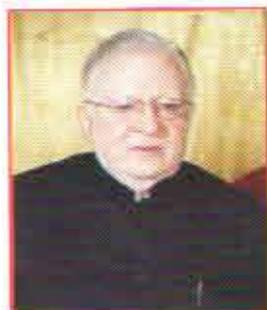
G.Madan Mohan Das

D.H.Rao

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION



G. BALAKRISHNA DAS
President



G. AMARCHAND
Vice President



M.R. RANGANATHAN
Vice President



ROLANDS J NELSON
Hon. Secretary



G. ANIL KUMAR
Hon. Secretary



C.G. BHASKAR
Hon. Treasurer



G. MADANMOHAN DAS
Hon. Editor

SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

Committee Members



S.K. Lakshmanan



Dr. T. Murugavel



V. Ethiraj



B. Mahesh Parekh



V.K. Mohan



Dr. M. Mohan



Madanchand
Darda



S. Balasundaram



Dilip Saboo



Bhadresh Meghani

SIPEX 2011

Organising Committee

Patron

Smt. Shanthi Nair, Chief PMG

Chairman

Mr. Ajit Chordia

Vice Chairmen

Mr. G. Balakrishna Das

Mr. M.T. Karunakaran

Mr. Atul Agarwal

Secretaries

Mr. Rolands J. Nelson

Mr. C.G. Bhaskar

Mr. G. Anil Kumar

Treasurer

Mr. C.G. Bhaskar

Chairmen of Committees

Programme Committee	:	Mr. Bhadresh Meghani
Allotment Committee	:	Mr. G. Balakrishna Das
Souvenir Committee	:	Mr. S. Balasundaram
Awards Committee	:	Mr. G. Amarchand
Publicity Committee	:	Mr. Ajit Chordia
Hospitality Committee	:	Mr. G. Madanmohan Das
Exhibits Committee	:	Mr. G. Anil Kumar
Dealer Booth Committee	:	Mr. V. Ethiraj
Fund Raising Committee	:	Mr. Ajit Chordia
Security Committee	:	Mr. G. Anil Kumar
Workshop Committee	:	Mr. D.H. Rao

SIPEX 2011

ORGANISING COMMITTEE



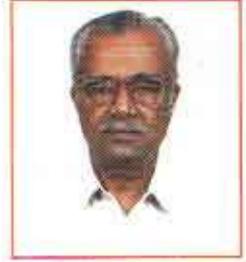
Smt. Shanthi Nair



Ajit Chordia



G. Balakrishna Das



M.T. Karunakaran



Atul Agarwal



Rolands J. Nelson



G. Anil Kumar



C.G. Bhaskar



Bhadresh Meghani



S. Balasundaram



G. Amarchand



G. Madanmohan
Das



V. Ethiraj



D.H. Rao

SIPEX 2011

Sub Committee Members

Mr. Dilip Saboo

Dr. T. Murugavel

Mr. Mahesh Parekh

Mr. Anup Goyal

Mr. H.A. Jaleel

Mr. Vikrant Machado

Mr. P. Sreetharan

Mr. A. Rajendra Kumar

Mr. V.K. Mohan

Mr. Nemichand Chopra

Mr. A. Arvind

Mr. Madanchand Darda

Mr. Bhritto Rajkumar

Mr. K. Prasad

Mr. D. Venugopal

Mr. S. Viswanathan

Mr. M. Lazar

Mr. T. Dhanasekar

Mr. G. Rammohan

Mr. Mohan V. Raman

Mr. M.R. Ranganathan

Mr. R. Soundararajan

Mr. S.K. Lakshmanan

Mr. P. Chandrasekar

Mr. N. Rajkumar

Mr. P.S. Seshadri

Mr. R. Ravindranath

Mr. Vasu Murari

Mr. Gokulraj

Mr. Rajesh Chajjed

Mr. Hastimal Jain

Mr. Rajesh Khetan

Mr. C.S. Saravanan

Mr. Felix Arputha Singh

Mr. Atul Agarwal

Mr. M V N S Murthy

Mr. Hemant Chopra

SIPEX 2011

Sub-committee members



Dilip Saboo



Mohan V. Raman



Dr. T. Murugavel



M.R. Ranganathan



Mahesh Parekh



R. Soundararajan



Anup Goyal



D. Venugopal



S.K. Lakshmanan



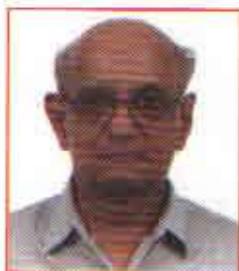
H. A. Jaleel



P. Chandrasekar



N. Rajkumar



G. Rammohan



P. Sreedharan



P.S. Seshadri

SIPEX 2011

Sub-committee Members



A. Rajendra
Kumar



R. Ravindranath



V.K. Mohan



Vasu Murari



Nemichand
Chopra



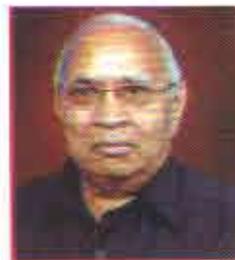
Gokulraj



A. Aravind



Rajesh Chajjed



Madanchand
Darda



Hastimal Jain



Bhritto Rajkumar



Rajesh Khetan



K. Prasad



C.S. Saravanan

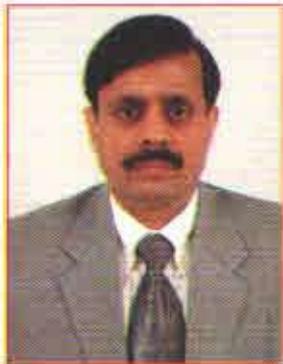


M.V.N.S. Moorthy

SIPEX 2011
The Jury
Chairman



G. Madanmohan Das
Members



A.K. Mittal



D.K. Nagpal



S. Balasundaram

Apprentice Juror



M.T. Karunakaran

Venue of the Exhibition Hall
LITE Auditorium, Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010



Nation's First Hologram Cover released by SIPA

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय अहिंसा दिवस
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE

विशेष आवरण Special Cover



02-10-2009

अहिंसा मेरे विश्वास का पहला अध्याय है
अहिंसा मेरी

"Non-violence is the first article of my faith."

Mahatma Gandhi

चेन्नई Chennai 600002

Special Cover on Krishna Devaraya released by SIPA

विजयनगर के सम्राट के राज्याभिषेक का
500 वीं वार्षिकोत्सव
500TH ANNIVERSARY OF CORONATION OF THE
EMPEROR OF VIJAYANAGARA

विशेष आवरण Special Cover



श्री कृष्ण देव राय
SRI KRISHNA DEVA RAYA



13-10-2009

चेन्नई Chennai 600002



Special Covers on film personalities released by SIPA



Exhibition by ABK AOTS DOSAKAI at Chennai

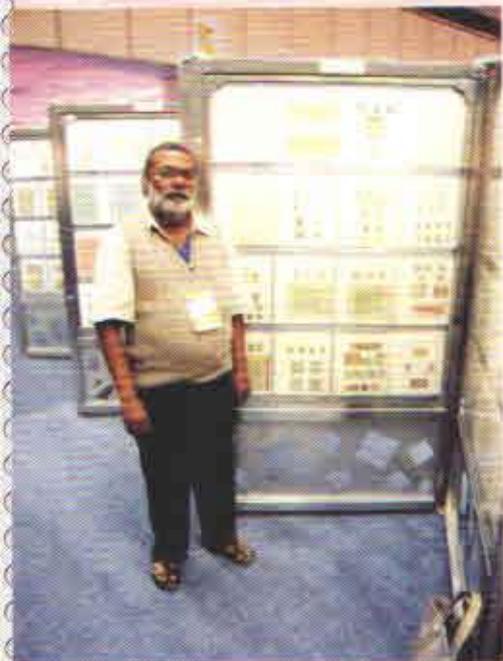


Partnered with SIPA, the ABK-AOTS DOSAKAI, a Japanese students' cultural organization, conducted annual exhibition on Japanese stamps to coincide with the philatelic week of Japan.



Our member and naturalist Dr. T. Murugavel's collection on conservation of nature displayed at one of the exhibitions.

**SIPA members who won awards in
INDIPEX 2011 at New Delhi**



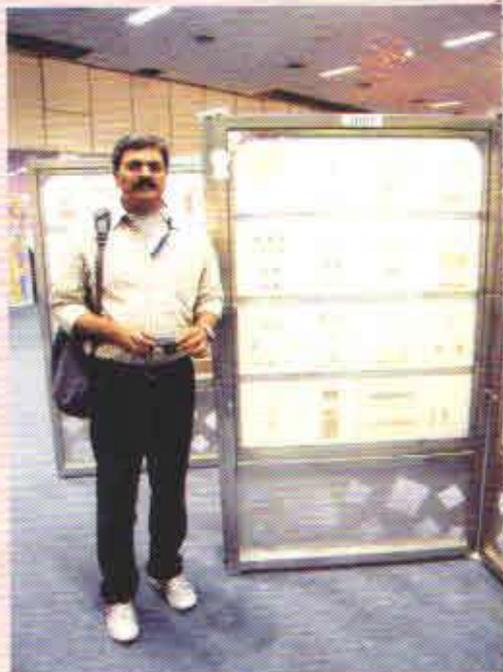
V.K. Mohan



G. Amarchand



C.G. Bhaskar

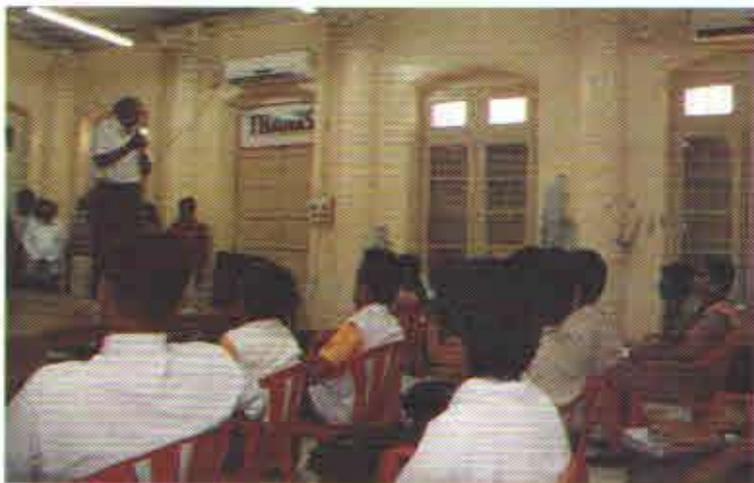


G. Anil Kumar

SIPEX 2011 Quiz on philately

As a curtain raiser of SIPEX 2011, a quiz on philately was held on 28 September 2011, for students at the Chief Postmaster General's office, Chennai. Mr. M.S.Ramanujan, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region was the Chief Guest. Mr. P.S. Seshadri, senior member and past Secretary, SIPA, conducted the quiz and Mr. S. Abdul Latheef, was the scorer and time keeper.

In all, 11 teams from 7 different schools participated. The students' basic knowledge on philately was commendable. Maharshi Vidya Mandir, Chetput, bagged the first prize. Calibre Academy, Avvai Shanmugam Road, Chennai stood second and Bhaktavatsalam Vidyashram, Korattur, ranked third.



Editorial

SIX YEARS after holding the SIPAGOLD'06 exhibition in its golden jubilee year , South India Philatelists' Association is organizing its thirteenth exhibition, SIPEX 2011, at state level, from 7-9 October 2011 at Chennai.

Collection of stamps from philatelists all over India has been showcased in more than 400 frames and this will surely be a feast for the eyes of onlookers. SIPA, with its enviable record of history has been holding stamp expos periodically, to enable philatelists from across the country to meet, discuss, exchange ideas and materials and go back with sweet memories. For students and budding philatelists these exhibitions give a learning experience.

The messages received from the dignitaries and others are very encouraging. I express my heartfelt thanks to them. We owe a debt of gratitude to Ms. Shanthi Nair, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle, Mr M.S. Ramanujan, Postmaster General, Chennai City Region, Dr.K. Ramachandiran, Postmaster General (MM) and their team of officers and staff and the officials of Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, for giving the required assistance for the smooth and successful conduct of the exhibition.

On this occasion we pay our respects to the late Murlilal Pittie, a veteran philatelist and renowned juror of international repute and the late S.B. Raja Seetharaman, an articulate and ebullient member of SIPA, for their commendable service to philately.

As part of the exhibition, this souvenir has been brought out by SIPA. Profusely illustrated, this souvenir is enriched by thoughtful articles from eminent philatelists, naturalists and scholars, which will guide them in their research.

Within a short time this souvenir has been prepared and it is now in your hands. This would not have been possible but for the untiring assistance of Mr. R. Soundararajan, our senior member and Mr H.A. Jaleel who helped us in graphics. My thanks are due to the office bearers and other members of SIPA who supported us in our endeavour.

I fondly hope that when the memories of the three-day exhibition fade, this souvenir will rekindle useful thoughts in the minds of people who browse the pages. Surely it will be a rewarding experience.

S. Balasundaram

Chairman

Souvenir Committee, SIPEX 2011

Sipex 2011 Special Covers

लुप्तपाय सफेद गिलहरी
Endangered Grizzled Squirrel



चेन्नई Chennai 600010
08-10-2011

विशेष आवरण Special Cover



पञ्जाब कीमती - मन्नार की खाड़ी
Coral Reef - Gulf of Mannar



चेन्नई Chennai 600010
07-10-2011

विशेष आवरण Special Cover



तमिलनाडु की तटवर्ती - पितृक कल्पित
Maritime Heritage of Tamilnadu



Rock Paintings at Keevalai
1000 - 500 B.C.

कीलवलै के पत्थर चित्र
चेन्नई Chennai 600010

08-10-2011

विशेष आवरण Special Cover





Welcome banner at the entrance of
SIPEX 2011 exhibition hall

Shri. M.S. Ramanujan, PMG (CCR)
inaugurating the exhibition by
cutting the ribbon



PMG (CCR) having a look at the
philatelic frames

Display of exhibits in frames





Release of special cover on coral reef in Gulf of Mannar

Release of SIPEX 2011 Souvenir



Activities in the sales booths



A section of audience at the inaugural function





Release of special cover on endangered grizzled squirrel

Release of special cover on Keelvalai rock painting



Dr. K. RamachandiranN, PMG (MM) having a look at the frames



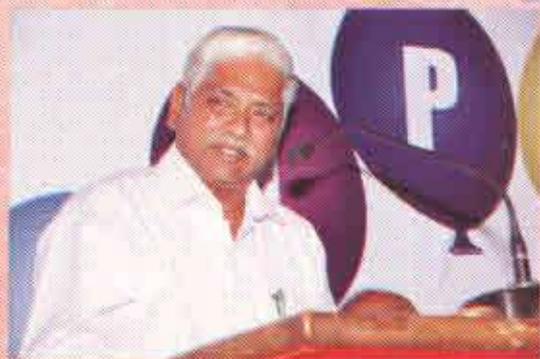
Discussion by members of jury





Display of medals, awards and mementos

Dr. T. S. Sridhar, Principal Secretary to Govt. giving away the prizes



PMG (MM) addressing the gathering

PMG (MM) distributing the awards



SIPEX 2011 stamp dealers list

STALL NO	NAME OF DEALER	PLACE	CONTACT NO.
1	A.C.THRILOKANATH	CHENNAI	9444388679
2	ANNISH COLLECTION	NAGERCOIL	
3	ARUN BHATACARYA	KOLKATA	9830412286
4	ASHOK MEHTA	MUMBAI	9323282175
5	BANGALORE HOBBY CENTRE	BANGALORE	
6	DIPAK DAVE	NADIAD -Gujarat	
7&8	EESHAN PRAKASHAN	DELHI	9810502893
9	G.PADAMCHAND	CHENNAI	9444289017
10	GOVIND	MALAYSIA	
11	HOBBY KIOSK	CHENNAI	9381330851
12	JAIN COINS	CHENNAI	9840041675
13&14	JE. CEE. ENTERPRISES	PONDICHERRY	
15	KAILASHNATH	VARANASI	9336919670
16	KISHORE / KAPIL	CHENNAI	9841338474
17	LUHADIA STAMPS AUCTIONS	JAIPUR	
18	M GOWTHAMCHAND	RANIPET	9443625395
19	MANU STAMPS & COINS	CHENNAI	9444346030
20	MAARKAM PHILA	CHENNAI	9790710696
21	MAHALAKSHMI PALACE	CHENNAI	
22	MARU AUCTIONS	BANGALORE	
23	P.UTTAMCHAND JANDA	CHENNAI	9840111439
242	PARK STAMP CENTRE	KOLKATA	
25	PARSI AMARCHAND	CHENNAI	9840156410
26	PHILATELIST MISHRA	KANPUR	9838038071
27&28	PRADIPPHILA ART GALLERY	PATNA	9334488236
29	PRAMOD KUMAR JAIN	CHENNAI	
30	RAJESH KUMAR	CHENNAI	
31	RAJIV KUMAR	VARANASI	9307280336
32	RAJKUMAR JAIN	CHENNAI	9444266210
33&34	RAJULU STAMPS & COINS	CHENNAI	9383056767
35	RASIKLAL MEHTA	MUMBAI	
36	S.S.HOBBY CENTRE	CHENNAI	
37	SAFIQ KHAN	KANPUR	
38	SRI SHANKESWAR NUMISMATIC	CHENNAI	9791100786
39&40	STAMPBAY	U.S.A	
41	SUBHASHCHAND SHOREWALA	DELHI	9810080132
42	SUNIL JOSEPH	KOTTAYAM	
43	UDAY GOSALIA	MUMBAI	
44&45	UNIVERSAL STAMPS	COIMBATORE	
46&47	V.ETHIRAJ	CHENNAI	9840670066
48	V.S.K.JAYSINGH	CHENNAI	
49	VED PRAKASHI	CHENNAI	9840423444
50	VIVID STAMPS	COIMBATORE	

Czeslaw Slania, the master engraver

C G Bhaskar



Czeslaw Slania was born 22 October 1921, at Czeladz, close to Katowice in Poland. He studied in the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, which is recognized as

one of Europe's most reputed Art Graphic Centers.

Already as a boy, Slania showed exceptional talents for making miniatures and, still a student, he was offered employment with the Polish Stamp Printing House where he worked for six years.

By 1950 he was engraving full time for the Polish Post Office before moving to Sweden in 1956 and engraved stamps for the Swedish Post from 1959. In 1974 the late King Gustaf Adolf VI of Sweden appointed him Court Engraver.

Some of the outstanding stamps engraved by Czeslaw Slania is reproduced here to show his exceptional skills.



Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Paris Commune

The portrait should have shown General Jaroslaw Dabrowski, but shows by mistake the composer and pianist Henryk Dabrowski. This is the first stamp ever published, fully engraved by Czeslaw Slania.



Airplane over Warszawa

Over the tree tops Slania has engraved his sister's family name (Majewska), and along the left border (read upside down) the name "Lilka", referring to a girl friend.



Automobile Factory in Zeran.

The person in the lower right corner mounting the wheel is Slania, who has portrayed himself on this stamp as a mechanic.

Czeslaw Slania has worked for the Polish postal administration for six years until 1956 when he left Poland and settled in Sweden. Since his departure he did not work for Poland again.

He received a very special honour from Slania in 1965, when he engraved the stamp for the centenary of the first mercantile college in Denmark.



The stamp shows an open accounts book, and Slania has engraved the names of his friends in it.

In the middle of the left page you will find the name A. Rasmussen, and on the last entry of the right page, the name R. Sundgaard, as shown on the blow-up on the left. You will need a strong magnifier to read the names.

Slania would later say: 'I thought I would be forced to redo the whole engraving, but the Danish postal authorities also had a sense of humour, so a new engraving never came into question'. Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Sundgaard felt honoured by Slania's gesture, and much later would state that if Slania could make fun of them in this pleasant way, then he must certainly have felt at ease with the Danish postal administration.



Traditional Danish architecture in different regions of the country.

Danish porcelain



The sheet shows a classical Danish painting by Otto Bache "A String of Horses outside an Inn", signed by Czeslaw Slania, and postally used (not first day cancel).



Souvenir sheet from the stamp exhibition HAFNIA '76, Hafniasheet No. III.



For Germany Czeslaw Slania has only designed one stamp (1995) commemorating the centenary of the Swedish Nobel Prize Founder, Alfred Nobel's (1833-1896) testament.

In the late eighteenth century attacks on postboys were so common the Post Office advised customers sending banknotes "to cut all such Notes and Draughts in Half in the following Form, to send them at two different Times, and to wait for the return of the Post, till the receipt of one Half is acknowledged before the other is sent".



'Attack on Exeter Mail 1816'

These illustrate an incident recorded in the *Bristol Journal* of 26 October 1816, in which the Exeter Mail was attacked by a lioness that escaped from a menagerie on its way to Salisbury Fair. The five se-tenant stamps were designed by Keith Bassford and Stanley Paine, engraved by Czeslaw Slania.



Postal deliveries in Greenland



Semi-postal for the benefit of the evacuated people at the volcanic eruption in Heimaey in Iceland.



The stamps on maps are some of Czeslaw Slania's masterpieces.

They were all issued for the Nordia-Exhibitions 1984 and 1991.

A beautiful souvenir sheet, showing a drawing by Auguste Mayer "Farmhouse



Núpsstadur í Fjótshverfi" (1836), first published in the *Travelling Book* by Paul

Gaimard.

In commemoration of Czeslaw Slania, Poland has issued in 2006 a postcard with



a stamp portraying Slania himself. The card is prepaid by a printed stamp of 1.30 zł., and on the two adjoined labels are shown his burin and a gold portrait of the Polish Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature (1996) Wislawa Szymborska. The cancel shows Czeslaw Slania's name and the years 1921-2005. Blank postcards without cancel are also available. The prepaid stamp is produced from a photograph of Slania, taken in his later years.

Poland 1996 Postcard (stationery)



with a prepaid stamp of 40 gr., valid for the then first domestic rate in Poland. The

card was not intended for international mail. The vignette on the left shows a fragment of Slania's diploma work "The Grünewald Battle", after a painting by the Polish painter Jan Matejko.



Centenary of the National Museum.
The Entrance Hall



The two fragments above show an interesting detail of SG 495/496 (Scott 699/700). Pick out the second lady from the left next to a gentleman, in the middle of the stairs. If you examine the bottom of her gown, you will find the name LODZIA (short for Leokadija), which was the name of his sister, written in a V-shape across the gown. The name was engraved in such a way that it looked like the natural folds.

Glassblowers
(G. Sjöbeck and
N. Sääv at Pukeberg).



"The sun is
shining through
the top of the
dwarfed pine-tree
..."



Butterflies

The
e m i n e n t
m a s t e r -
c r a f t s m a n h a s



worked most extensively for the Swedish Post Office, but has also produced stamps for postal authorities all over the world. He is the inheritor



of a centuries-old skill that has been practised by some of the greatest artists, including Rubens, Rembrandt and Dürer. His dexterity and attention to detail is quite remarkable; he has the ability to engrave at an astonishing ten

lines per millimeter. Slania's versatility is evident in the broad range of subject matter he happily tackles, from royal portraits and flora and fauna to film stars. He even finds time (and space) to include the odd personal reference within his minuscule canvas: a caricature of himself or the names of friends.

Sweden
1983.
"The Old
Fiddler".



The
all-time
favourites
would
have to be
"The Old

Fiddler" engraved for Sweden in 1983, and the Göta Canal Set for Sweden in 1979, of which the ferry boat "Juno" is of a particular beauty.



The ferry boat "Juno"

Sweden 1979. from the Göta Canal Set. The magnificent 50 kroner stamp (2000) from Sweden which celebrated his 1,000th stamp engraving.

He passed away on 17 March 2005 and was buried in Krakow, Poland — his city of birth — on 24 March 2005.

According to Czeslaw Slania's own will, he did not want a big funeral. From

his family came daughter Olivia and sister Leokadia. As Czeslaw Slania was a citizen of honour in his birthplace Czeladz, the

mayor and some other leading persons from that city were participating. Some persons from the Polish Philatelic Society and friends were also at the funeral. From Sweden came Jerzy Krysiak, who was a very close and dear friend to Czeslaw Slania. All together there were some 50 people at the ceremony.

Never again will we see more exquisite engravings from his burin, but the pleasure that this man, through his talent and skill, has brought to so many will be his lasting legacy.

The work of Czeslaw Slania is so great that it is valuable to study and collect his stamps. That is why clubs and study groups come up in order to study the life and work of the engraver. Sweden was first with "Czeslaw Slania Samfundet" in Stockholm (Czeslaw Slania Association). It started in 1981 in connection with the 60th birthday of Czeslaw Slania.



"Czeslaw Slania Study Group" started in 1985 in Milwaukee USA. There are also a Danish club called "Danpolphil" in Copenhagen and one in Jelenia Gora Poland called "Stowarzyszenie Czeslawa Slani".

Even if the great master has put his engraving tools down and no more masterpieces will astonish the world's all philatelists, and others as well, we are all very grateful to what Czeslaw Slania did. His work will never die. All of us can find joy in looking and studying the small paper pieces at the corner of an envelope or in our albums where we place them.

We, the philatelists and friends all over the world, thank him for what he did.

Awards received by Czeslaw Slania :

- Commander Order of Poland
- Order of Saint Charles
- Order of the Dannebrog
- Order Mérite Culturel
- Robert Stolz Music Prize
- Rowland Hill Award

Sources :

- 1 Janusz Dunst: Czeslaw Slania Katalog Prac [Czeslaw Slania Catalogue of Works]
- 2 *Stanley Gibbons Monthly*
- 3 Internet □

C G Bhaskar, Treasurer of SIPA, is specialising in "Indian States". His collections have won for him many national and international awards. He may be reached through sipagold@gmail.com

Unparalleled reach-UPU gets .post top-level domain

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was the first UN agency to get top-level domain name, post (.post) from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), paving way for the global postal sector to explore new frontiers of electronic postal services.

As a platform for extended postal services, .post will have many possible applications that expand the postal brand and business to the Internet, ensuring that mail received with the .post extension comes from a recognized postal-service provider.

The domain .post can be used for developing e-commerce and facilitating international trade, enabling small entrepreneurs to offer their services more easily. It will also facilitate e-identification, linking electronic addresses to physical postal ones to serve as legal proof of a person's identity. Furthermore, the domain name could eventually act as a bridge between national governments for the transmission and recognition of official documents.

India National Philatelic Exhibition

INPEX 2008

A bird's-eye view

R. Soundararajan

EVEN as the year 2007 was wrapping up, there was a great publicity campaign for India National Philatelic Exhibition at Chennai. From the vantage-points on the roads in the city I could scan the hoardings relating to the expo. Besides, brochures gave information about the approach of the event.

On the New Year eve, Smt. Indira Krishnakumar, Principal Chief Post master General, Tamil Nadu Circle, briefed the press about the exhibition in all its aspects. She highlighted the magnitude and importance of the five-day exhibition to be held for the first time in Chennai. The press conference made a nice curtain-raiser to the event.

A few days earlier—on 29 December 2007 to be exact—Doordarshan's *Podigal* channel telecast a discussion on philately. The panel comprised leading philatelists and students with this writer moderating it. It centred around the hobby of stamp collecting and the role of philatelic bureaux and philatelists in promoting the pastime. The feedback got from viewers was impressive

January 2, 2008 was D-day. The place was Raja Muthiah Hall, Egmore. Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Govt. of India inaugurated the much-awaited exhibition by lighting the traditional *kuthuvilakku*. About 3,000 people packed into the hall. On the occasion he released a set of four stamps depicting the endemic butterflies of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In addition, the Minister released an elegant booklet titled *1857 Through Indian Postage Stamps* brought out by India Post containing a galaxy of freedom fighters splendidly portrayed. In his speech the Minister lauded the efforts of the staff and philatelists for having made the glorious expo possible. Smt. K. Noorjehan, Member (Operations and Marketing), Postal Services Board, presided over the function.



Come into the adjacent Rani Meyyammai Hall. It is well-lit and airconditioned. What you find here astonishes and delights you. Call it a deluge of stamps! Also a host of postal stationery! All of them are neatly arranged in album sheets which are in turn mounted firmly on frames according to chosen themes. The frames are even and regular throughout. The exhibits have been received from philatelists from across the country. You can't resist the feeling that the philatelists must have found a deep bond with the topics and an unmistakable passion for the stamps.

There are more than one lakh stamps showcased here. Some of them are rare stamps such as 'Penny Black' which is world's first adhesive postage stamp. It was brought out in 1840 by the Post Office of the United Kingdom. Another stamp is Scinde Dawk of composite India, which is circular in shape and is the first stamp of Asia, brought out in 1852. There are numerous stamps on a variety of themes. They pack quite a punch! To keep them under one roof is not a joke. It is only through intensive preparation, careful planning and systematic organising that such a mammoth task has been achieved. I had a feeling that a genie was at work! Actually hundreds of staff members laboured at it with team spirit and

unswerving devotion, keeping in mind the aesthetic appeal of the exhibits.

Now you see young students bustling about, all smiles. For some it is a variety fare. I find a few young men copying the details from the sleeve-notes on the exhibits. There are visitors galore trooping in the hall and the mezzanine floors where stand arrays of frames displaying collection on the themes, bold and brilliant, helpful and valuable. In short, the sight of stamps has evoked in them the sense of wonder as they have set up a high benchmark. The visitors go on feasting their eyes on the exhibits, which are but a grand reflection of a superb *tour de force*.

A cross-section of opinion about the expo would be a revealing experience. For Shri G. Balakrishna Das, a veteran philatelist and president of South India Philatelists' Association, the expo was a 'dream come true'. He added, 'We worked hard to make India Post break fresh ground by holding the exhibition in Chennai. We feel rewarded for our effort. It is a New Year gift'. Shri N. Ragupathy of Nagapattinam, a retired government official and an avid stamp collector, spent all the five days in the exhibition halls and paid attention even to the smallest details. He felt the exhibition would 'help younger

generation to learn a good deal' from the collection. Shri A. Roy, retired lecturer from Lucknow was all praise for the 'national exhibition with international standard'. Septuagenarian Shri Damodar Apte from Pune 'thoroughly enjoyed' himself and felt glad that he could make it to the exhibition. He began collecting news clippings pertaining to the expo. Master N. Vignesh, a student of Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Chennai, was 'encouraged to collect stamps more efficiently'. He said that he liked the workshop on philately conducted by Shri P.S. Seshadri whom he considered his 'guru'. There were others who praised the expo sky-high.

* * * * *

The evening seminar on 'Modern Trends in Philately' began formally with Smt. K. Noorjehan, Member (O&M), Postal Services Board, initiating the debate. In her keynote address Smt. Indira Krishnakumar, Principal Chief Postmaster General, referred to the 'dynamic evolution of philately' and anticipated new and exciting ideas from the participants to help formulate strategy for promoting it. Shri K.V. Sundar Rajan, Postmaster General, Coimbatore, moderated the discussion. Leading philatelists from different parts of the country presented their considered views on the subject.

Shri Jaydev Nansey insisted on educating 'the institutions, societies or bodies on the importance of philately' and emphasised the need for 'thematic exhibitions'. Prof. V.K. Gupta was optimistic about the future of philately and asked for relaxation of rules for displaying 'restored' stamps. Shri Pradeep Jain made a valid point by suggesting philatelic outlets of the Department to come under its marketing cell. He stated that the revenue earned through philatelic items was much less in India than China and suggested opening of more number of Philately Deposit Accounts.

While Shri Ravindranath wanted children to be educated on the benefits of philately, Shri Madhukar Jhingan felt a need for attracting the masses to philately and mentioned the Spain model where touring expos are held on a permanent basis. He suggested issue of this year's Olympic stamps in advance instead of releasing them at the time of the event. He was highly appreciative of *The Hindu - Young World* for carrying a weekly column on stamps.

Having got it all straight from the horse's mouth, India Post will surely use its imagination and experience to develop philatelic activities on quite a big scale.

* * * * *

and singer M.K. Thiyagaraja Bagavathar's gold plates, from director K. Subrahmanyam's *esprit de corps* to Sivaji Ganesan's versatility and from Dada Saheb Phalke's innovative genius to V. Shantaram's influence in movies. He moved on to talk about Tiruvalluvar and Subramanya Bharati. He was at his best when he dealt with *Kamba Ramayanam* from which he recited verses with balanced cadences and rimes. After his speech autograph-hunters surrounded him to the embarrassment of the organisers.

The interactive session on the penultimate day was quite lively. The jurors faced a barrage of questions from the exhibitors after their exhibits were adjudged according to their merit. While some wanted to know the yardstick to judge the worth of their collection, a few sought guidelines and advice to improve their skills. The Principal Chief Postmaster General, as head of the jury, intervened now and then by way of moderating the discussion and making the points manageable and acceptable. Shri K.V. Sundar Rajan, Postmaster General, was seen asking the right juror to answer the questions. The jurors were frank with the exhibitors and in time restored goodwill.

In a glittering prize-giving ceremony the chief guest compared the crowd in the hall to the one at a cricket match and said that it was indicative of the fact that stamp collecting was catching on with people, particularly among youth. She commended the way the Principal Chief Postmaster General recognised the efforts of her staff in making the exhibition a success and said that if only all other organisations followed her example to motivate their people, better results would be achieved.

A word about the comperes. S.Abdul Latheef, Shanthi and Revathi compered the programmes on the stage through and through on all the five days. They did their job quite competently and in an intense and noticeable way. Their comments were short and sweet, clear and accurate. All of them had mellifluous voice making it pleasant to listen to them. Shri Latheef waxed poetic as was his wont, celebrating the individual events. Kudos to everyone of them.

As the exhibition came to a close, the organisers headed by Smt. Indira Krishnakumar, Principal Chief Postmaster General, were in upbeat mood after strenuous and stressful phase. For, success comes to those

who dare and act. There were hundreds of others who were extremely happy about the grand finale. Smt. K. Noorjehan, Member, PSB, expressed her happiness about the outcome of the exhibition and was all praise for the staff members.

My brief account will be incomplete if I do not mention the

services of Shri S. Balasundaram, Special Officer on duty. Calm and unruffled, he was the moving spirit behind the excellent manner in which the whole event was organised. He coordinated the activities at every stage. He worked very hard to see that the exhibition was a thumping success. The rest is history. □

R. Soundararajan was a faculty member with the Postal Training Centre, Mysore. He was a columnist for The Hindu-Young World on philately. He is a member of South India Philatelists' Association. E.mail : rsrajan37@gmail.com

Special covers released during INPEX 2008



Stamps on eye care

Dr N K Saboo

Eye is a very important organ of the body. Collection of philatelic material (these include postage stamps, cancellations, F.D.C, miniature sheets, max-cards, etc.) pertaining to ophthalmology (eye) is very interesting and fascinating.



Ophthalmology is a study of postage stamps and other philatelic material related to eye. It may be anatomy, physiology, disease and their treatment pertaining to eye. The history of ophthalmology starts with a myth. Seth the God of darkness blinded Horus in a fierce battle. As the eyes of Horus were sacred and imperishable, Ra the Sun God restored his sight (Real organ transplant)

The most ancient Eye Doctor IRY lived in 2400 B.C. He was devoted to the study and treatment of eye. The first ophthalmic document was found in 1862 between the legs of a mummy in Thebes.

Human eyeball consists of three coats: Sclera, Choroid and Retina. It also has two chambers _ anterior and posterior and a crystalline lens behind the Iris. Light passes through the cornea, pupil and the

lens to reach the retina. The image formed on the retina is inverted. The images are carried to the brain and by a complex process they become straight.



Visual acuity (Vision testing) is the first step of eye testing and is tested on a chart – Snellen's chart. Normal vision is 6/6 (in meter). If the patient cannot read the letters, he/she may have some error.



The other forms of eye testing are Retinoscopy, lid eversion examination, slit lamp examination, Ophthalmoscopy direct and indirect), etc.



There are three major diseases for curable blindness-cataract, diabetes, corneal opacity and glaucoma. Cataract is the leading cause of blindness globally and presently there is a backlog of 20 million cataracts. Annually about 5 to 7 million cataract surgeries are performed.



Mature cataract.



Cataract surgery: Old and new methods

Childhood blindness is one of the major problems in the poorest regions of Africa and



Asia. The main causes are poor nutrition (Vitamin A deficiency) and Infection (measles and conjunctivitis).

Refractive errors (poor vision) can be corrected by simple glasses and contact lenses.



Glaucoma, yet another silent disease leading to blindness, and "rainbow haloes" around a bulb are some of the symptoms and are associated with pain and redness.



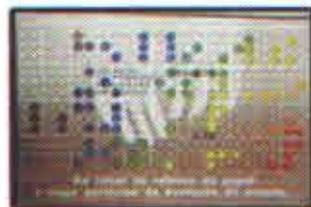
Eye investigation and treatment is very important. Microbiology, E.R.G., X-rays, Scanning ,M.R.I. are a few investigative procedures. Eye drops and ointment form part of treatment apart from tablets and injections.

Corneal transplantation

Among all kinds of organs, eye transplantation (eye donation) is very successful. Donate eyes and share the joy

of vision. Eye donation movement has spread all over the world and Sri Lanka is in the forefront. Although we cannot restore sight in blind people we can make their lives worth living by helping them to see the world around us by community-based rehabilitation. White cane was first adopted in France enabling blind people move about safely. Braille system has become a symbol of learning for the blind.

Prevention is an integral part of treatment of a disease. Control of blood pressure and sugar are important to prevent any retinal complication. Balanced diet also protects children from hypovitaminosis malnutrition. Mother's milk supplemented by Vitamin-A drops are some measures to prevent nutritional blindness. Trauma care by aseptic cleaning and using proper drugs is important. Varieties of safety devices are available to protect the eyes during work. Medical personalities in ophthalmology are honoured by many countries for their pioneering work in ophthalmology and even a few have received the Nobel prize.



The blind carry on their normal activity with the help of braille script.



Dog guiding the blind



White cane

Dr. Narendra Kumar Saboo is a Khammam-based philatelist. He is a postgraduate in Ophthalmology. He has specialised in Portuguese India and won several awards in national and international exhibitions for his collections. Being an ophthalmologist, his collections on eye-care are noteworthy.

Ten reasons why students should do stamp collecting

R Soundararajan

A picture speaks thousand words, so goes a Chinese saying. Students, by collecting stamps enjoy the joy of learning. The advantages are manifold. Here is the essence.

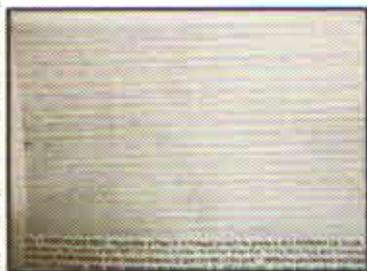


- 1 Stamp collecting reduces stress levels of students who are nowadays burdened with memorizing facts or rote-learning.
- 2 It fosters creativity among students as they choose the themes in which they are interested.
- 3 It imparts geographical knowledge. For example, they would know that a stamp from Nauru is from a Pacific Ocean country.
- 4 Students learn about the history and culture, flora fauna and above all prominent personalities of a nation.
- 5 The range of themes the stamps provide is enormous. They give excitement and pleasure to students.
- 6 Students come to know the native names of countries such as Nippon for Japan, Sverige for Sweden, Helvetia for Switzerland, Magyar for Hungary or Polska for Poland.
- 7 The cognitive ability of students collecting stamps is always high. They would know the currencies of various countries and their exchange value.
- 8 Most students who are stamp collectors come out successful in the competitive examinations.
- 9 As a group effort, stamp collecting builds in students human values like patience, perseverance, kind-heartedness, friendliness, love of nature and aesthetics. These qualities become their life-long assets.
- 10 Students' participation in philatelic exhibitions and the recognition they get for their efforts not only boost their morale but also invigorate their spirit of competition.

Portuguese India – the early issues

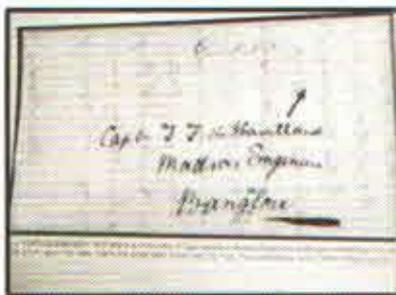
Dr N K Saboo

The postal history of Portuguese India goes back to the earlier days of the colony. The postal history begins soon after the conquest of Old Goa by Portuguese in 1510. The Viceroy Afonso de Albuquerque at Goa had to communicate to the royal court at Lisbon writing letters. Letters, written in triplicate, were carried by separate ships because of the hazards of the voyage. Mail was carried by an overland route as well. The early communications of Portuguese India had an official character and the correspondence is now to be found in museums and governmental and ecclesiastical archives.



At the beginning of the 19th century the mails were exchanged between Portuguese

India and British India. This exchange was as per a treaty in the year 1822 between Governor of Goa and



British Governor. (The regular land post was started between Goa and British India, via Belgaum and Malvan). From 1 August 1823 the mails were exchanged daily between Goa and British India. In 1826, all the letters going to north of British India were sent through Vengurla and to the south were sent via Polem. The movement of correspondence between Lisbon and Goa was very irregular. By the order of the queen on October 1838 the mail between the Portugal and Portuguese India was sent through sea route from Gibraltar to Alexandria and further from Suez to Bombay. They were carried thrice a month (1859). From the year 1826 the mails going outside Goa were sent to Sawantwadi in the north and Karwar in the south. Both these places were in British Indian territory and the mail exchange took place at these two stations.



The post from Goa to Portugal was endorsed with different shaped cachet (Post Alexandria). The letters were marked with 'Goa' with or without addition of 'pp' written on top or bottom in three colours. Later from 1854 to 1871



the pre-stamp cancellations had small rectangular box with a word 'GOA' and

the bottom stamp printed double. Issue of natives continued up to 1877 (more than 8 types) with a few minor changes in various years of issues. To perforate the sheet a long strip of ivory with tooth like edges resembling comb was used.

'PP.'

The use of British India stamps in Portuguese India predates first native stamps

by 17 years and is an example of British India stamps sold in



another country. They were also used in Daman as late as 1882.

The papers used to make the Service Postage stamps from 1883 to 1877 seem to be of the British origin. These papers had watermarks like 'ORIGINAL TURKEY MILL KENT KENT', J. WHATMAN, HODGKINSON & CO. SPICE BROTHERS AND W.KINGS.

According to the postal regulation of



1871 any letter to British India or vice versa should bear the stamps of corresponding

countries.

The first stamp of Portuguese India was printed at the Govt Printing Press, Nova Goa on 1 October 1871. The stamp was inscribed as "SERVICIO POSTAL" at top and "INDIA POST" at the bottom which are separated by ornamental design on the sides. The inside of the oval had a back ground of 33 vertical lines. Each stamp was

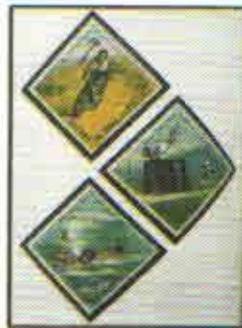
Since the crown issue was sold out, the stocked native



stamps of 10 and 20 Reis were overprinted with figure '5'. These were hand-printed individually.

printed one at a time and the sheet had 100 stamps. This method led to many errors: tête-bêche, double printing and missing values, etc. These are known as

The first issue of crown was made in 1877 and the second issue in 1880-81 on different varieties of papers and the issue was withdrawn in April 1889. Due to change in postal rates the crown issue was surcharged with different values in 1880-83. These are scarcely used on covers.



Covers carried by the first flight from Bombay to Portuguese India on 13 April 1931

The history of postal issue of stamps by Portuguese India which started in 1871 ended with last issue in 1960 (though two sets of Sports and Malaria remained unissued as the Portuguese territory was declared a part of India)

Postage stamps to go online in 2012



India of Post is planning to introduce online version of postage stamps, which will its India Post customers to use printout of the stamps for sending their mail.

Ms. Radhika Doraiswamy, Secretary, Department of Posts, on 20 April 2011 told PTI that as part of e-commerce initiatives by India Post, the Department was working on a project that would enable public to print copy of bar-code-based receipt and use it in place of postage stamps for sending mail.

A study on traffic lights in Indian postage stamps

Prof Dr Vra Saathappan

The world's first official postage stamp Penny Black was released on 1 May 1840 and was issued for public use on 6 May 1840 in Great Britain. The stamp was printed in sheets of 240 in black colour; hence it is known as Penny Black. The next stamp released after four days was 2 Pence Blue. Obviously, this stamp was printed in Blue colour. Hence forth all stamps issued by Great Britain and various other countries were printed in single colour only.

The world's first bi-colour (two colour) stamp was issued on 15 October 1854, by East India Company in India in the denomination of four annas, 14 years after the birth of Penny Black. The colours used were red for stamp border design and blue for the head of Queen Victoria at the centre.

So far no record exists to identify the country which printed the first multicoloured stamp. A multicoloured stamp is basically printed with four colours only. They are Cyan-a kind of blue colour, Magenta-a kind of red colour, Yellow and Black. For more perfectness and reality of a picture, more colours can be used for printing a stamp. A combination of these four basic colours will print a minimum of 256 real colours apart from hues and shades, which is more

than sufficient to express the depthness, clarity and sharpness of a picture or a design.

While printing the stamps, the colours should overlap exactly one over the other to reproduce the exact design of the stamp and this process is known as registration. Registration marks are placed on the sheet margin and their functions are seriously monitored during printing for a good reproduction of the picture. Also to know the colour printed on the stamp, a dot or a mark or a respective letter C, M, Y, K or any other alphabets like A, B etc., is printed on the sheet margin in the same colour at a designated position without disturbing the stamp design. These marks or dots are sometimes enclosed by a rectangle. The marks or dots printed in a line without overlapping each other and within a



rectangle will look similar to a traffic control lights on a highway. Hence these printed marks or dots are known as Traffic Lights generally and as colour control marks in some countries. Printing of these marks or dots or letters in a stamp sheet is not compulsory. It is only an option. But when printed, it becomes an excellent collector's item.

In India, first multicoloured stamp printed were the first birds series issued



on 15th December 1968. But the first stamp printed with traffic lights was

issued on 8th June 1973 to commemorate the 25 years of International Air Services in the face value of Rs.1.45, which was the then air mail postage rate. The traffic lights on the stamp sheet margin were enclosed in a rectangular box with four, eight pointed colour stars.

Initially all Indian postage stamps (except 1948 Gandhi - printed in Switzerland) were printed only by India Security Press (ISP), Nasik. In 1993, Madras Security Press (MSP), Chennai and Calcutta Security Printers Limited (CSP), Kanpur were permitted to print Indian postage stamps. In 2000, Eagle Press Pvt. Ltd (EPPL) was allowed to print Indian postage stamps. After the entry of private agencies in printing postage stamps, the

stamp designer's innovative ideas are reflected in the traffic lights and the scope of the study on traffic lights in Indian postage stamp sheets has widened. The size and shape of the colour dots of the traffic lights mainly depends on the personal interest of the stamp designer.

Substitute for traffic lights

India's first three



color stamp issued after



independence was on 21 November 1947. The first traffic light was



printed only in 1973. Till then colour registration mark used for printing served

as a substitute for traffic lights. Even some stamps issued after 1973 with single or two colour did not have traffic lights.

Some two colour stamps issued



during 1977,78 and 79 did not have any registration mark or traffic light, instead

they had one solid rectangular block in one colour circumscribed by a thicker rectangular box in the second colour. This was printed in between two stamp sheets. Hence after cutting into single



sheets, half of this colour box is seen in one sheet in one position only. This type of Box printing was first adopted in 1960 in the issue commemorating 50th anniversary of First Official Airmail Flight, Allahabad to Naini.

There is normally no registration mark or a colour dot for a single colour stamp. In the National Small Scale Industry Fair stamp issue, 17 November 1978, a small rectangle was printed in the TL3 position.

Distorted traffic light dots: In the historical personality services issue on 31-



12-2000, all the four stamps are printed using the basic colours (cyan, magenta, yellow, black) and two additional colours, gold and special brown.

The traffic light consists of 6 numbers of 6-pointed stars without rectangular box. Among the six colour dots printed, the special brown colour dot is found to be distorted in the traffic light in two stamps, Prithviraj Chauhan, ruler of Delhi, and Raja Bhamashah, Dewan of Mewar.

Traffic lights in miniature sheets: So far traffic lights have been printed in miniature sheet in three issues only (i) 15-11-2002, Handicrafts of India, (ii) 28-11-2003, India-France Relationship Joint issue (iii) Rath Yatra, Puri, 12-07-2010.



In the first case, the traffic light consists of the smallest diameter (1 mm) colour dots freely printed in a horizontal row. Whereas the traffic light in the stamp sheet consists 4 numbers of 6 pointed colour dots.



In the second case the traffic light colour dots in the miniature sheet is in a vertical row. The dots are of 2 mm diameter in the sheet which is India's first sheetlet. The traffic light is arranged in a square format. This is the only sheet so far issued to have this type of square formation.



In the third case the traffic light was printed in one corner of the miniature sheet as done in the stamp sheet. There are 4 different miniature sheets and each sheet is printed with a traffic light in one TL Position. They were issued to commemorate the INDIPEX 2011.

Alphabets in place traffic lights:

The first and the only stamp to have the letter CMK (representing the primary or basic colours cyan, magenta, yellow and black) instead of the traffic light colour dots was the issue on Presidents Body Guard (16-11-1998). Later on, CMK is additionally printed along with the traffic light colour dots. These letters accompany the colour registration mark and is printed in different locations in different stamp sheets.

In the Renewable Energy Day stamp issued on 20 August 2004 as was printed



with the 4 primary colours. Instead of a black colour dot the

letter "K" is hand written to represent the black colour. In addition to the magenta colour, the letter "M" has been handwritten on the side. It is half cut.

Multiple traffic light in a single stamp sheet: In a stamp sheet, normally there will be only one traffic light colour dots in any one of the TL positions. The INDIPEX 73 issue on 14 November 1973 had three large size stamps. After the 1953 Railway Centenary issue, this was the largest sheet of stamps. There were two traffic light colour dots in a single sheet either in the TL1 and TL2 positions or in TL3 and TL4 positions. Other issues which had two traffic lights printed in a single

sheet are (i) Michelangelo Buonanoti, 28-06-1975, (ii) Forty Years of Freedom, 15-08-1987, (iii) Martyrs of First War of Independence, 09-05-1988, (iv) Indian Institute of Science, 14-12-2008, (v) Jayadev and Geetagovinda, 27-07-2009. The India 89 issues have 14 stamps printed during 1987-1989. The last eight stamps (3rd 4th and 5th issues) were printed in panes of 6 stamps. Each pane has a traffic light colour dots. These panes formed as part of a stamp sheet with in-between gutter pairs. Stamp sheets were issued with 2, 3, 4 & 5 panes. There were a maximum of five traffic light color dots in a single sheet.

Confusing and vanishing colour dots in traffic lights: Stamp issued on 15 August 1997 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Swatantra Bharat, Hindi news paper, has traffic light dots confusing us about the colour used for printing. The traffic light colour dots in TL3 position is clear and good. The colour dots in TL1 and TL4 positions have additional light green colour dot. Black colour dot and blue colour dot are clear and positioned correctly in all TL positions. In place of dark green colour, the dot is not clear and there is a light green colour overlapping the orange colour dot



in TL4 position. Whereas in TL1 position, light green is printed in the dark green position and the unclear dark green overlapping on the orange colour dot. An unwanted colour is present and confuses in deciding the colour used for printing of stamps.

Apart from this confusing traffic light,

one can observe the colour used in printing the stamps are not exactly reproduced in the traffic light



colour dots. This is predominant in the recent stamp issues. This was first found to have been present in the 1998-Homage to Martyrs Issue. The colours used for printing were black, dark blue, flag green, flag orange and photo brown. These colours are reproduced in the traffic light as grey, sky blue, mild brown, light green

and light orange. When analyzing, it seems that a filter has been used and the colour intensity has been reduced in printing the traffic light colour dots. A similar filter seems to have been used in recent stamp issues. The black colour used in the stamp will look as a dull black or grey in the traffic light. The same effect can be observed in other colours also.

This type of reduction in intensity of the colours used in traffic lights has completely vanished the lightest colour yellow from the traffic light.

This could be clearly seen in the Mahatma Gandhi issue of 1998. Yellow colour is not visible at all in



the 4 TL positions and the black colour looks like grey. Similarly Yellow colour dots has vanished or faintly visible in the issue of the 50th anniversary of institute of Paleobotany in 1997. The colour used were cyan, magenta, yellow and brown. The other three colours in the traffic light also has a filtered effect.

□

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The story of pigeon post in India

Naresh Agarwal



Pigeon, the flying postman

Pigeons have an extraordinary homing instinct, natural habit and ability of returning unerringly to their homes at high speed after a flight of quite longer distances in any direction. This ability of their navigation from anywhere to their lofts at high speed was recognized and they were used during ancient times for transmitting messages.



Pigeon post

The pigeons were transported to a destination in cages or lofts, where messages would be attached to their paws or legs and then they would fly back to its home where the owner could detach the message and read it. While pigeon post is largely obsolete today, it was at one point of time a very trendy method of carrying messages. It was not widespread.

This practice of using carrier pigeons is very ancient. The Greeks and Romans used pigeon post to convey information, and many pigeons were engaged in military service for carrying messages with troop orders from place to place. In addition to pigeons, birds of prey were sometimes used for carrying messages.

In a way, the pigeon post could be considered has first form of airmail. Pigeons are still used to carry messages in some remote regions of the world where other postal options are not available. Pigeon enthusiasts also keep birds for the purpose of sending messages to other like-minded, keeping this ancient tradition alive.

Early history

References of pigeon post can be found in various Indian epics. There is a mention in *Mahabharata*, that a swan was used to convey the message of prince Nala to princess Damayanti.



The cloud as messenger

The earliest known records of homing pigeon used for message delivery in ancient Egypt date from 5600 B.C. to 3000 BC. Incoming ships released pigeons as an announcement of important visitors. More and more military, political, and economic importance was attributed to this fast method of delivering messages. The earliest large-scale communication network using pigeons as messengers was established in Syria and Persia around the 5th century BC. Between 770 BC and 390 AD, the Greeks used pigeons to convey the results of the Olympic Games.

King Chandragupta Maurya (340-293 BCE) and his grandson Emperor Ashoka (304-232 BC) used pigeons as message carriers during their reign for the needs of intelligence gathering and collection of revenue data between the capital and the outlying provinces of the vast kingdom.

The Arabs established regular pigeon courier services. According to one tale, a Caliph in North Africa satisfied his taste for Lebanese cherries brought by pigeons. Each carried one cherry inside a silk bag. It was the first parcel post. Interestingly enough, a prize pair of carrier pigeons in the Arab empire could fetch one thousand gold pieces.

In the middle ages, the Romans developed a pigeon post to carry important messages throughout the Roman empire. The news of capture of Damietta by St. Louis was announced by sultan through a pigeon.

Pigeon post during and after 11th century

Domesticated pigeons were first developed in ancient Egypt, and the pigeon loft or dovecote subsequently became a living larder for many communities such as medieval monasteries.

In Baghdad, in the 11th century, the idea first occurred of making use of the tendency of certain pigeons to fly straight home from wherever they might be. The city of Baghdad and all the main towns and cities in Syria and Egypt were linked by messages carried by pigeons. Later, the most wide-ranging conqueror of medieval history, Genghis Khan, operated such a system during his conquests. He created a pigeon network that spanned one-sixth of the world and established pigeon relay posts across Asia and much of Eastern Europe. Wars and emergencies popularized the pigeon post in China, Persia and India.

During and after 15th century

Pigeon posts were in existence during the Dutch war in the 16th century. Besieged Haarlem used pigeons to convey messages in 1573 A.D., and Leyden in 1574 A.D.

In India, the Mughal emperor Babar inherited this mail carrying method and the pigeon post was in use throughout the Mughal period. He wrote in his biography about the sport of pigeon keeping. During

his reign, a rapid one-way postal service (always back to base) became possible. The art of breeding pigeons was also developed by selective breeding of suitable homing pigeons during this period.

During the reign of Akbar (1556 - 1605) pigeon post was selectively used. The pigeon carriers were housed in the royal palace, where they were trained to carry news over the far-flung territories. References to the use of royal pigeons and camels have also been found. Though camels and camel caravans were used primarily in desert areas, camels were also used in non-desert zones, specifically for carrying royal mail.

The introduction of regular pigeon post is attributed to Akbar, and not Jehangir, as mentioned in several accounts, as Akbar was crazy about pigeon keeping. Whenever he went on a trip, his men carried pigeons with them. Normally more than two thousand birds formed his entourage.

Pigeons were trained and housed in the royal palace. They were used to carry urgent missives over short distances, exclusively for royal purpose. The practice continued to be favoured by Jehangir who extended its use on special occasions.

In eighteenth century, Tipu Sultan (1782 – 1799), used carrier pigeons. Pigeons used to return to the Jamia Masjid mosque in Srirangapatnam which was his

headquarters. The pigeonholes may be seen in the mosque's minarets.

The practice of using homing pigeons as message carriers also prevailed from the earliest times. Amazingly, they were being officially used by government departments as pigeon posts in remote areas even now. Orissa State Police is one such department which used pigeons as mail carriers till 2004 in India.

Pigeon post in Orissa

The Orissa Police is the only state force in India which adopted and maintained this method of communication since 1946. They procured 40 pigeons from the departing colonial government at the close of the World War II. The force had a strength of 1926 homing pigeons spread over 17 police districts of the state in 2004. The pigeons were trained in three courses – static, mobile and boomerang.



The static category formed a batch in which pigeons were moved with the forces leaving headquarters for remote areas and were released in the sky whenever the need arose for communication with headquarters. In the

Hyderabad Philatelic and Hobbies Society organized Pigeon Post on 14 January 1977 on the occasion of APPEX 77.

As many as 500 small pigeongrams were issued which were numbered too & franked with 2 Rs with special Appex 77 cancellation.

Interesting episodes.

In religion and mythology

Carrier pigeons are by no means a recent introduction in India - they can be seen on Mughal paintings, carrying love messages into harems or secret military instructions to soldiers in the field.



Pigeons and Doves have important place in different religions. In Hindu epics, the Yama, God of the dead, has birds such as owls and doves or pigeons as messengers.

In Indian cinema

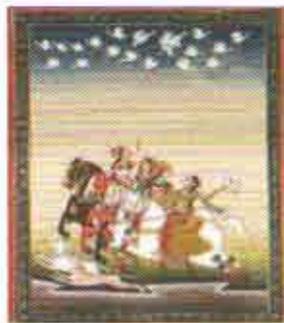
One can find many stories of love, betrayal or wartime when pigeon played important roles as messengers. Indian cinema has explored, used and projected the utility of carrier pigeons in various films acting as link between the lovers by carrying and exchanging their mails. Pigeon used in Indian blockbuster movie "Maine Pyar Kiya" (I fell in love) and its

heroics in conveying love messages between lovers. In various films like *Jodha Akbar*, *Mugal-e-aazam*, *Delhi-6* and *Anarkali*, pigeon is predominantly used. Thus Indian cinema has certainly immortalized pigeons through movies.



Pigeon post in art and culture

Pigeon post has a great role in not only Indian but Western and European art and culture. It is reflected and projected in various art forms. Various painters have given pigeon a big place in their paintings.



A pigeon suspected of spying

A pigeon had been held under armed guard, having been accused of carrying out a spying mission for India's arch rivals. This white-colored bird was found in India's Punjab region, which borders on Pakistan, and identified as a foreign bird and was taken to a police station 25 miles from one of the region's major cities, Amritsar.

The pigeon had a ring around its foot and a Pakistani telephone number and address stamped on its body in red ink. Cop. Jagjit Singh said he suspected the pigeon had landed on Indian soil from Pakistan with a message, but no note has been found. It is believed the pigeon may have been on a "special mission of spying".

Sending important messages to VVIPs

Exclusive services of the carrier pigeons were availed during sudden change in programme of the India's first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru during his visit to Orissa in 1948 when carrier pigeons were sent from Cuttack to Sambalpur and to other remote areas delivering message to the administration to make proper arrangements. The pigeons very efficiently performed their duties flying hundreds of kilometers in a few hours.



Naresh Agarwal from Bilaspur is an engineer, insurance professional and a veteran philatelist. He writes regularly in philatelic journals. For his collection on 'Automobiles' he won several awards at various national and international exhibitions. He is developing a new theme "Insurance in India" in Social Philately Class.

Service during natural calamities

The services of about 800 carrier pigeons had been used to carry missives between remote stations in the north-eastern parts in Orissa during floods in 1982 and cyclone in 1999, when radio networks were disrupted. The birds flew hundreds of kilometres and delivered important messages.

A substitute

Though officially the pigeon post in India is no longer in practice mainly due to the development in communication technology yet sometimes the need of such traditional and natural mode of communication is felt especially during natural calamities. However, in the other parts of the world it is being used in one way or the other. Where the latest technology fails, the pigeons come into play.

Postal communication in British East India

Company rule

Dr K RamachandiranN

Communication is the lifeline of people in all places and at all times. It is an important medium for their very survival. It helps them cope with situations and maintain transactions of day-to-day life. Direct communication was long ago realised with the help of sign language and speech, but when people began to spread out, a kind of indirect communication was needed. Thus came into being the concept of 'messenger'. Later, this idea evolved into a system of postal service connecting the whole world in a communication network.

Ancient system

As the needs of men became more demanding, the methods used to communicate were manifested in various ways designed to meet the challenge of the times. Many of the old Hindu scriptures carry references to such remarkable 'carriers' of message. Instances of using birds and animals are abound in the Tamil literature. Musicians from different clans like *panar*, *viraliyar*, *porunar* and *koothar*, besides poets, played an important role in communicating messages from one place to another as they were always travelling to meet the local chieftains or local rulers to get rewards and gifts for their

livelihood. There is a mention in *Agananuru* that the people used to meet in the bazaars or fairs or *angadis* and conveyed to each other the local happenings.

There is ample evidence in early Tamil epigraphs to prove that there existed communication between Tamilagam and other countries. Further, recently discovered test stone bearing the legend of *Perumpatankal* meaning the stone of a master goldsmith, a square copper coin of the Sangam Age, and a copper coin bearing the figure of a two-masted ship of Thailand, the potsherds bearing the legends 'Catan' and 'Kannan' and 'Korapurnan' from the Egyptian ports situated on the banks of the Red Sea and the Tamil names like Velan and Ilavan figuring in archaic Tamil script on the potsherds from Sri Lanka are pieces of solid evidence that go to show the existence of communication between those countries and the Tamil kingdoms.

The habit of writing letters was prevalent during this period. Verses 76 to 82 of the *Silappadhikaram* mention that Madhavi, paramour of Kovalan (the hero of the epic) had personally written a letter addressed to him when the latter returned to his wife Kannagi. She used the leaves of *Thazhampoo*, screw pine (*Pandanus fascicularis*) to inscribe the wordings.

A courier service between the capital and the outlying provinces of the vast kingdom served the needs of intelligence gathering and collection of revenue data, whence regular messengers, *doots* (emissaries) and pigeons were used for conveying the royal communiqué.

The practice of using homing pigeons as message carriers also prevailed from the earliest times in India. It will be interesting to note, that 'pigeon carriers' are still officially in use by government departments in remote areas, like the State of Orissa.

The Greek Periplus of the Erythraean Sea contains many detailed references to the Indian seaports Muziris (Kodungallur or Cranganore, Kerala), Poduke (Ariyankuppam), Barbaricum (modern Karachi), Barygaza (Bharuch, Gujarat) with the Tamil dynasties of Pandyas, Cholas and Cheras as trading partners.

Under colonial rule

Before the advent of foreign trading companies in India, independent states ruled by small rulers possessed unorganized postal systems not interlinking with each other. As the Portuguese, Dutch, French, Danish and British colonialists gained power in India, their postal systems existed alongside those of independent states. The postal history of India is closely tied to India's complex political history.

Britain's involvement in the postal services of India began in the eighteenth

century. Initially the service was administered by the East India Company who established post offices in Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta between 1764 and 1766.

Warren Hastings (Governor General of British India from 1773-1784) opened postal services to the public in 1774. Prior to this the main purpose of the postal system had been to serve the commercial interests of the East India Company. Serving economic and political needs of the ruling authority remained a driving force in the development of the postal service. The Post Office Act 1837, reserved the government the exclusive right to convey letters in the territories of the East India Company.

In 1850 a report was commissioned into the working of the Post Office in India. This report introduced uniform postage rates dependent on weight alone (previously charges had been calculated on weight and distance). It recommended that a Manual of Instructions be supplied to postmasters to encourage uniformity of practice. The recommendations of this report led to the introduction of Act of 1854. However the reforms had a mixed success with some areas persisting in old practices.

Before 1837, the East India Company's dominions in India had no universal public postal service. That situation changed in 1837, when, by Act of that year, a public post, run by the Company's Government,

was established in the Company's territory in India. Post offices were established in the principal towns and postmasters appointed. The postmasters of the Presidency towns oversaw a few provincial post offices in addition to being responsible for the main postal services between the provinces. By contrast, the District collectors (originally, collectors of land-tax) directed the District post offices, including their local postal services. Postal services required payment in cash, to be made in advance, with the amount charged usually varying with weight and distance. For example, the charge of sending a letter from Calcutta to Bombay was one rupee; however, from Calcutta to Agra it was 12 annas (or three-quarter of a rupee) for each tola (three-eighths of an ounce).

Telegraph system

Before the advent of electric telegraphy, the word "telegraph" had been used for semaphore signalling. During the period 1820–30, the East India Company's Government in India seriously considered constructing signalling towers ("telegraph" towers), each a hundred feet high and separated from the next by eight miles, along the entire distance from Calcutta to Bombay. Although such towers were built in Bengal and Bihar, the India-wide semaphore network never took off. By mid-century, electric telegraphy had become viable, and hand signalling obsolete.

Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy, a Professor of Chemistry in the Calcutta Medical College, received permission in 1851 to conduct a trial run for a telegraph service from Calcutta to Diamond Harbour along the river Hooghly. Four telegraph offices, mainly for shipping-related business, were also opened along the river that year.

The telegraph receiver used in the trial was a galvanoscope of Dr. 'Shaughnessy's design and manufactured in India. When the experiment was deemed to be a success a year later, the Governor-General of India, Lord Dalhousie, sought permission from the Court of Directors of the Company for the construction of telegraph lines from "Calcutta to Agra, Agra to Bombay, Agra to Peshawar, and Bombay to Madras, extending in all over 3,050 miles and including forty-one offices." The permission was soon granted; by February 1855 all the proposed telegraph lines had been constructed and were being used to send paid messages. Dr. O'Shaughnessy's instrument was used all over India until early 1857, when it was supplanted by the Morse instrument.

By 1857, the telegraph network had expanded to 4,555 miles of lines and sixty two offices, and had reached as far as the hill station of Ootacamund in the Nilgiri Hills and the port of Calicut on the southwest coast of India. During the Indian rebellion of 1857, more than seven hundred miles of telegraph lines were destroyed by the rebel forces, mainly in

the North-Western Provinces. The East India Company was nevertheless able to use the remaining intact lines to warn many outposts of impending disturbances.

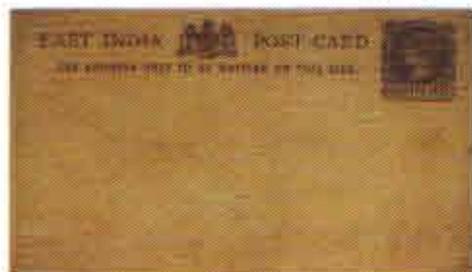
The political value of the new technology was thus driven home to the Company and, in the following year, not only were the destroyed lines rebuilt, but the network was expanded further by 2,000 miles.

The three different presidency or regional postal systems merged in 1854 to facilitate uniform methods of communication at an all-India level. With uniform postal rates for letters and newspapers—one-half anna and one anna, respectively (sixteen annas equalled one rupee)—communication between the rural and the metropolitan areas became easier and faster. The increased ease of communication and the opening of highways and waterways accelerated the movement of troops, the transportation of raw materials and goods to and from the interior, and the exchange of commercial information.

The 1850s witnessed the introduction of the three "engines of social improvement" that heightened the British illusion of permanence in India. They were the railroads, the telegraph, and the uniform postal service, inaugurated during the tenure of Dalhousie as governor-general. The first railroad lines were built in 1850 from Howrah (Haora,

across the Hughli River from Calcutta) inland to the coalfields at Raniganj, Bihar, a distance of 240 kilometers. In 1851 the first electric telegraph line was laid in Bengal and soon linked Agra, Bombay, Calcutta, Lahore, Varanasi, and other cities.

Under the East India Company



1.7.1879

121x74

The English East India Company started establishing post offices in Bombay and Madras. Further, land route between Madras and Bengal was established by the Governor at Fort St. George, Madras, in 1712. The East India Company opened its first post office in 1727 in the white residential area in Calcutta and shifted it to the Court House building in the old Court House Street in 1762. But, this post office was later merged with Calcutta GPO, and it is the oldest post office in India and is still in use.

John Company, a private enterprise, played a vital role in improving and accelerating the runner service and also in establishing a regular postal system in India. In 1766, Lord Clive initiated an experimental post office in Madras. The Company officers were permitted to send

their mail along with the Government *Dak* without payment of postage.

A regular postal system based on the lines of Bengal system was introduced in Madras in 1785 wherein private letters had to bear postage. On 1 June 1786, the GPO at Madras came into existence and, within a short period, a fortnightly service from Madras to Calcutta and from Madras to Bombay was introduced.

Private agencies

There were also indigenous agencies which catered to the postal needs and requirements of the people even during the Company's regime. M/s Rozarian Company introduced private postal service from Calcutta to its neighbouring places. In Madras, Messrs Binny and Company were engaged in collection of overseas mail.

Dual postal system – District Post

Since the General Post Office was not in a position to cater to meet the needs of the people settled in the Company jurisdiction, the District Post Office was introduced. The Imperial Post was run by the English East India Company in important towns where it had the exclusive right of conveying letters. The District Post, on the other hand, assumed responsibility for communication between police and revenue stations in the remotest part of the districts, and was maintained purely for conveying official correspondence. In many parts of the country the District Post was controlled

by the Collector or local officials who exercised both revenue and judicial powers.

The District Post in the Madras Presidency was eventually introduced in Anantapur, Arcot (South and North), Chingleput, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem, etc. for the general public in 1846. These post offices were created where the Company's *tapal* could not be sent for delivery.

Receiving houses

In the initial stage, there was only one receiving house – the earlier version of post office – at Byculla in Bombay. Three more offices were opened at Colaba, Girgaum and Manhadevey. In 1850, five receiving offices were opened at the following places in Madras, viz. Royapettah, Vepery, Black Town, Triplicane and Santhome. Calcutta had the largest number of six receiving houses. In 1851, Bengal had 74 principal and 70 subordinate offices in addition to Calcutta GPO and six receiving houses. In the case of the Madras Presidency, there were 130 post offices.

Postal services in Madras

The English who came for trade were interested in acquiring land and wanted to fortify it. After several unsuccessful attempts to buy land from the Mughals, Francis Day, an Englishman, finally bought a piece of land in 1639 from a Hindu Raja of Chandragiri for the East India Company and this was later called Madraspatnam.

There was a small island on the strip facing the sea and Francis Day fortified it in 1640 by raising a wall and a fortress. Later on, the fortified area came to be called Fort St. George. This turned out to be the springboard for British rule.

In 1653, the Fort was elevated to the rank of a separate Presidency governed by a President and his Council. In 1665 the President became the Governor of Madras. The Company used to send letters to other trading centres through private couriers which was expensive, so they wanted to establish a post office of their own to reduce the cost by engaging runners.

The courier service started by the Company gave satisfactory service to the merchants of Madras. The construction of roads enabled the couriers to convey the letters much ahead of their schedule. For instance, in 1711, letters from Fort St. David (Cuddalore) reached Fort St. George in 40 hours. In the same year, tappy (letter-post) peons were stationed between Madras and Masulipatam.

The postal system was originally formed by the English merchants to assist

in their trading activities. In the later part of the 17th century the system was extended to the important centres of trade. For quick transmission of communication, tappy peons were posted all along the road from Fort St. David, to Madras. Similar arrangements were made between Fort St. George and Fort William in Calcutta. All this paved the way for the regular transmission of private mail in course of time.

In 1720, regular services were started to and from Madras and Bengal, Bombay, Surat, Visakhapatnam and Anjengo. The rates were also fixed at 6 fanams for Bengal, 4 fanams for Visakhapatnam, Anjengo, Bombay and Surat each. Lord Warren Hastings introduced some reforms in the postal system, and one among them was introduction of copper tickets of two-anna denomination which enabled a letter to be carried for a distance of one hundred miles.

After the freedom struggle of 1857 the British crown took over reigns of India and the postal service along with other organs came under the direct control of the British Parliament and the rest is history. □

Dr. K. RamachandiranN, Postmaster-General (Mail & Marketing) Tamil Nadu Circle, Chennai, did his Master's in History and Law and took his Doctorate in University of Madras. His doctoral thesis has been abridged into a book titled Indian Postal History - Focus on Tamil Nadu.

Stamps on cinema

Mohan V Raman

It all started several years ago. As a young boy I was fascinated by two very different things – postage stamps and cinema. Those were the days when we were bombarded by those lovely stamps from the Kingdom of Bhutan – 3 D stamps, stamps printed on silk, on tin, a gramophone record, plastic and even made to look like oil paintings. This was every little boy's collection dream. Watching movies is an Indian pastime, more so in that era when there were no computers or television. It was but natural that years later when my desire to restart my stamp collection came. I chose to fulfil my desires and started a collecting stamps on cinema. I must confess that the idea came to me when the U.S. Postal Service released a stamp on Marilyn Monroe. This was featured in the *Time* magazine and became one of the first stamps I acquired for my collection.



Marilyn Monroe

The most important aspect that must be noted is that cinema as it is known today came to be invented only in 1895 and therefore there cannot be any "old" cinema stamp. Indeed it was only when cinema celebrated its centenary in 1995 and with the tremendous success that the USPS had with the Marilyn Monroe stamp that many a philatelically approved nation started to issue stamps on this subject.

We can divide the stamps into several categories. Some of them are:

Stamps on cinema personalities, films, etc. This forms the main part of the collection. This has in it inventors, directors, actors, musicians and other technicians.



Lumiere brothers – inventors of modern cinema



Akira Kurosawa – Japanese Director.

Stamps on personalities who were from cinema but who achieved excellence in other fields and hence honoured with a postage stamp each. For example, M.G.R. N.T. Rama Rao , Ronald Reagan & Arnold Schwarzenegger

Mahakavi Bharati and Shakespeare. S. Satyamurti who was also the Founder President of the South Indian Film Chamber was honoured by issue of stamps.



Ronald Reagan & Arnold Schwarzenegger



Nutan



Dadasaheb Phalke.



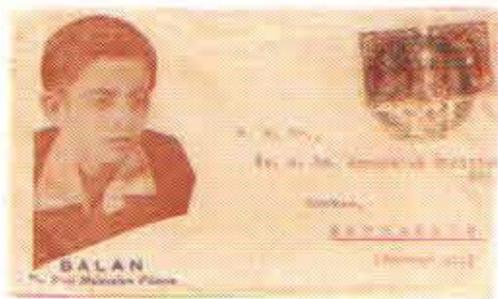
Cannes Film Festival : cancelled cover and a stamp



Stamps on personalities who have been great writers etc but who have also contributed to the growth of cinema with their art were honoured. Some such personalities are: Rajaji , "Kalki" Krishnamoorthy, M.S.Subbulakshmi,



Postal Stationery and personal stationery used as postage.



The above registered cover was sent by Rajaji, the then Governor General to my grandfather using a SERVICE overprint of the 3 ½ Annas stamp on Gandhi.



The absence of pre-Independence stamps from India has also made it difficult for a collector to exhibit a wide range of stamps like colour trials, essays and proofs from India.

Stamps of famous people whose lives have been made into films like Gandhi, Mozart and Swathi Thirunal. This can serve to extend the collection but the item needs to be of some philatelic value.



Proof sheet from Tonga.
Perfect stamp and its "error"



Needless to say, there may be other methods of classifying stamps. This I feel helps me to determine if a particular stamp fits into my collection.



Something beautiful are the stamps on couples.



Kishore Kumar and his wife Madhubala



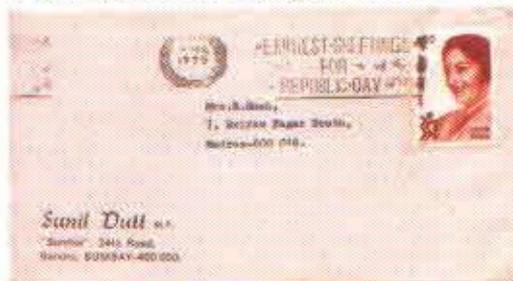
Jurassic Park

K. Subrahmanyam



Gemini Ganesan and his wife Savitri.

Sometimes we can even come across a famous husband using his wife's stamp.



Many movies, posters even directors have been honoured with stamps.



Bimal Roy, Cecil B DeMille, Cary Grant, Kane, David Niven, E.T., Edward G Robinson, Guru Dutt, Audrey Hepburn and Judy Garland.



L.V. Prasad



Meena Kumari



Raj Kapoor and Dr Rajkumar



V. Shantaram



The film *Titanic*

Yul Brynner



The legendary Director Satyajitray
with the "Oscar".



Sivaji Ganesan

We can safely say that the stamps on cinema may not be of antique value but they are aesthetically pleasing and are very informative. □

Mohan V Raman, an entrepreneur-cum-management consultant, finds his pastime in philately. He is a well-known figure in the entertainment industry. He specializes in stamps on cinema.



First floating post office

India's first floating post office was inaugurated in Srinagar by Minister of State for Communications and IT Sachin Pilot and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah on 22 August 2011.

According to John Samuel, Chief Postmaster General, J&K Circle, this is the first such post office in India and it has been made as a tourist-oriented post office on a huge boat house on Dal Lake. It would provide a tourist-friendly service to the people of Kashmir and to holiday-makers from across the world.

Holograms on postage stamps

Rohit jain

From the Penny Black to the early 1860s, stamps were mainly rectangular and printed in a single colour. Multi-colour printing was then introduced, coinciding with a greater assortment of themes. This new century has seen some postal administrations develop stamps beyond recognition from merely paying postage to becoming a modern collectible. The innovations in stamps included adhesive stamps, Odd shaped stamps, lenticular stamps, stamps on cloth, wood and metal foil, fragrant stamps, embroidered stamps to stamps decorated with crystals, meteorite dust, rock powder and so on. One such innovation was the use of holography in philately.

The souvenir sheet shown below has stamps printed with five different methods and has a hologram stamp in the cent. It was issued by New Caledonia on the 140th anniversary of first New Caledonia stamp, in a quantity of 30000 souvenir sheets.



Upper left stamp is printed by line engraving/intaglio. Upper right stamp is printed by offset and thermogravure. Lower left stamp is printed by frequency modulation screening. Lower right stamp is printed by embossing with 22-carat gold leaf. The stamp in the centre has a hologram. Holography was invented in 1947 by Hungarian physicist Dennis Gábor (1900–1979), a work for which he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971. The discovery was an unexpected result of research into improving electron microscopes at the British Thomson-Houston Company in Rugby, England. The British Thomson-Houston Company had



filed a patent on (and received patent GB685286), and the field advanced in the 1960s with the development of the laser.

The souvenir sheet shown above was issued by Hungary on millennium and on the circular hologram is the portrait of Dennis Gábor. Turning the miniature sheet by 90°, in the place of the portrait the theoretical drawing of the formation of a holographic picture by Dr. Dennis appears.

The hologram firsts

The first reference of hologram can be found in 1970 in a special cancellation

from France. The cancellation illustrated reads 'Optique et

Holographie'. But we still had to wait for 17 years before an actual hologram appeared on a philatelic item.

The very first official use of hologram on a philatelic item was done by China. Though earlier in 1986 there had been the issues of Ameripex-86 catalogue which featured a hologram of the Statue of Liberty, but it was not an official issue. China issued a presentation folder on the Lunar Year of the Rabbit 1987 shown in which had a hologram depicting rabbits on the front cover of the folder. Inside is a block of 4 of the Year of the Rabbit stamps canceled and 'Happy New Year' greetings in five languages. (Date of issue 5 January 1987).

This was a series of presentation folders containing holograms which continued till 1999. In 1988 too China issued another cover on Lunar New Year of the Dragon. This time the hologram was removed from the front of the folder and instead it was placed inside along with the

cancelled block of four of the stamp issued on the Lunar New Year (Date of issue 5 January, 1988)

In the same year the second use of hologram on a philatelic item came from Australia. Australia Post, on the occasion of the Expo'88, at a stamp show

held in Brisbane, issued a special stamp of the denomination of 37c. A set of covers was issued during the Expo'88 stamp show featuring the stamp. Out of these covers the one issued on the official opening of the show featured a hologram in the cachet (Date of issue 30 April 1988). The hologram featured the Expo'88 logo. This is the first use of hologram on a philatelic cover. But as this was not a First Day Cover but was a Special Cover cachet, holograms had yet to officially appear on the cachet of a First Day Cover.

On 18 October 1988 a new era in philately began when Austria issued the world's first stamp with a

hologram on it. It was issued at the 1988 Export Convention of the Chamber of Commerce and was intended to promote Austrian products abroad. The 2D-3D hologram depicts a cube bearing the



words AUSTRIA and MADE IN AUSTRIA (in English). When tilted, a large stylized 'A' appears.

The Austria Post says about this issue:

"The trademark motif shows a symbolic representation, the hologram foil a cube with the trademark 'A'. The special stamp appeared on the occasion of the Export Congress'88 the Federal Economic Chamber on 18 October 1988. The holographic display of the trademark "A" was not only a philatelic innovation, but also for Austrian quality products advertised abroad. It was thus the visual climax of a series of activities this year, laying down the value of exports, for the Austrian economy was underlined."

The stamp was valued 8 shillings (s8) and was issued in panes. 'A' of 380,000 panes of 8 stamps i.e. 3,040,000 total stamps were issued. They sold out in three days. Wolfgang Stocker designed the stamp and the hologram. The hologram was modelled by Light Fantastic and was produced by Kurz Foils. The Stamping Machine used for the printing was Platen Press GTP and the foil feeding was Steur double track device. The stamp was printed in 3 colour photogravure by Austrian State Printing Office (Österreichische Staatsdruckerei) and the hologram was hotstamped on the stamps.

Since then many countries have issued stamps and other philatelic items bearing holograms and holographic foils

in various forms. But it is this stamp which started it all.

For the third time in 1989 China issued another cover on Lunar New Year of the Snake shown in. This time the hologram was again placed inside along with the cancelled block of four issued on the Lunar New Year. Technical information of the issue was also written inside this time which had appeared on the outside in the previous two issues. (Date of issue 5 January 1989)



In 1989

Brazil became the first country to issue a souvenir sheet with

hologram. This souvenir sheet was issued on the occasion of Twentieth International Biennial Cultural, Sao Paulo. The souvenir sheet had three stamps of Ncz\$ 2.00, Ncz\$ 3.00 and Ncz\$ 5.00. The hologram took up the bottom half of the strip. The hologram depicted emblem of the Biennial and '20', both repeated across the sheet. (Date of issue 18 October, 1989). This souvenir sheets remains to be one if its kind and use of hologram has not been seen on any stamp after that. Holograms form either the complete stamp or are applied on the stamp as part of the image portrayed. However in this souvenir sheet the hologram stamp was applied as a decorative strip.



The year 1989 saw the first postal stationery with hologram, introduced by US. At the time of issue, the Assistant Postmaster General Gordon C Morison explained:

"Our customers have been telling us for years that they would like to see more innovative philatelic designs. This hologram concept is a unique approach to satisfying that demand." The hologram depicted a space station orbiting the earth and a space shuttle docking on the space station. The holographic foil was set in behind a die-cut window and was applied to the envelope paper whilst still on the web. (Date of issue 13 December 1989)

In 1990 Finland became the first country to issue a set of stamps with hologram. The theme of the stamps was Posts and Telecommunications as a State Commercial Company. The set comprised two stamps of 1.90 fm and 2.50 fm. The stamps had the image of



Lake Paijanne and the hologram depicted the Post & Tele communications emblem over a globe.

In 1990 China issued a commemorative cover with hologram cachet on 1 5 0 anniversary



of first postage stamp. The cachet had the hologram of the Black Penny Stamp. (Date of issue 6 May, 1990).

In 1990 for the first time souvenir postcards with hologram were issued by China in association with the All - China Philatelic Forum. The set of three postcards had a hologram image on the left and a cancelled stamp on the right.

Since then holograms have appeared in various philatelic items for reasons of security and for beauty. It has since developed as a field of study and a



specialized collection item. The number of issues is increasing every year and with it grows the interest of collectors.

Rohit Jain is from Indore. He is a software engineer deeply interested in philately. He has participated in a number of exhibitions and contributed articles. His specializations are 'unusual stamps and holograms'. He can be reached by email-hologramstamps@gmail.com

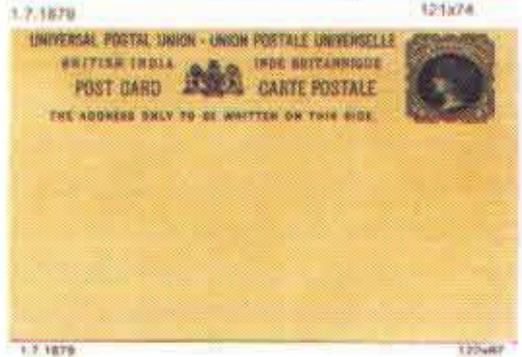
அஞ்சல் அட்டை

வில்லன் தேவராஜ்

அஞ்சல் அட்டை தகவல் பரிமாற்றத்திற்காக அனைத்து தரப்பு மக்களாலும் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இவ்வகையில் மிகவும் குறைந்த செலவில் தகவல் பரிமாற்ற சாதனம் அஞ்சல் அட்டை ஆகும். ஆஸ்திரியா நாட்டைச் சார்ந்த திரு. இம்மானுவேல் ஹெர்மன் என்பவரால் உலகின் முதல் அஞ்சல் அட்டை வடிவமைக்கப்பட்டு 1869-ஆம் ஆண்டு ஆஸ்திரியா நாட்டில் தான் முதல் முதலில் வெளியிடப்பட்டு பயன்பாட்டிற்கு கொண்டு வரப்பட்டது.

பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவில் லண்டனைச் சார்ந்த De La Rue & Co என்ற நிறுவனத்தால் அஞ்சல் அட்டை வடிவமைத்து அச்சிடப்பட்டு 01.07.1879 அன்று புழக்கத்தில் விடப்பட்டது.

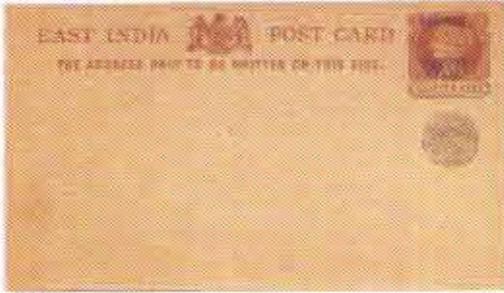
பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவில் முதன் முதலாக 01.07.1879-ல் பிரவுன் கலந்த மஞ்சள் நிற (Buff) அட்டையில் சிவப்பு பிரவுன் (Red Brown) நிற பிரிட்டிஷ் அரசி விக்டோரியா மகாராணியின் தலையின் உருவப்படம் பொறிக்கப்பட்ட ¼ அணா மதிப்பிலான அஞ்சல் அட்டை 121x74 mm அளவில் உள்நாட்டு உபயோகத்திற்காக வெளியிடப்பட்டது. க்ரீம் கலர் அட்டையில் விக்டோரியா மகாராணியின் தலையின் நீல நிற உருவப்படம் பதிக்கப்பட்ட 1½ அணா மதிப்பிலான அஞ்சல் அட்டை 122x87 mm அளவில் வெளிநாட்டு உபயோகத்திற்காக வெளியிடப்பட்டது.



01.07.1879-ல் வெளியிடப்பட்ட வெளிநாட்டிற்கான அஞ்சல் அட்டை 01.01.1982-ல் ஒரு அணாவாக மாற்றப்பட்டது. மீண்டும் 1921-ல் ½ அணாவாக உயர்த்தப்பட்டது. பின்னர் தற்போதைய அளவிலான 138 x 89mm அளவில் அஞ்சல் அட்டைகள் வெளியிடப்பட்டன.

1879-ல் வெளியிடப்பட்ட அஞ்சல் அட்டைகள் தற்போதைய இந்தியாவின் பகுதி முழுவதும் விநியோகிக்கப்படவில்லை. அப்போதைய கிழக்கிந்திய கம்பெனியின் ஆளுகைக்குட்பட்ட பகுதிகளில் மட்டுமே புழக்கத்தில் விடப்பட்டது. பின்னர் அவர்கள் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் இருந்த Convention States

என்ற அமைப்பில் உள்ள சம்பா, ஜிந்த், குவாலியர், பாரிட்கோட், பட்டியாலா மற்றும் நாபா போன்ற 6 மாநிலங்களிலும் தபால் கார்டுகள் அந்தந்த நாட்டு இலச்சினையும் நாட்டின் பெயரும் அச்சிடப்பட்டு வெளியிடப்பட்டு உபயோகப்படுத்தப்பட்டன.



1888

132X78



1890

127X77



1896

125X74



1910

136X88

Feudatory States என்ற பிற பகுதிகளை ஆண்டு வந்த மன்னர்களும் தங்கள் நாட்டில் அஞ்சல் அட்டைகளை அறிமுகப்படுத்தினர். குறிப்பாக திருவிதாங்கூர், கொச்சின், ஹைதராபாத், ஹோல்கார், கிஸ்ஸிங்கர், ஜெய்ப்பூர், ராஜ்கோட், ராஜ்பீப்லா, செளராஷ்ட்ரா, சிர்மூர், சர்காரி, தார், தாதியா, பிர்வானி, மோர்வி, பாம்ரா மற்றும் காஷ்மீர் போன்ற 28 நாடுகளை ஆண்டு வந்த அந்தந்த நாட்டு மன்னர்களாலும் அஞ்சல் அட்டை அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டு புழக்கத்தில் இருந்தன.



1883

142X90

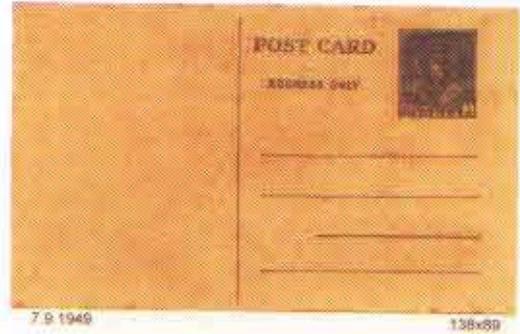
காலப்போக்கில் சில மன்னர்கள் ஆண்டு வந்த பகுதிகள் பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவுடன் இணைக்கப்பட்ட நிலையில் அங்கும் பிரிட்டிஷ் இந்தியாவின் அஞ்சல் அட்டைகள் புழக்கத்தில் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டன.

இந்தியா சுதந்திரம் அடைந்த பின்னரும் மன்னர்களின் ஆளுகைக்குட்பட்ட பகுதிகளில், அவரவர்களின் தபால் தலைகளும், தபால் கார்டுகளுமே புழக்கத்தில் இருந்து வந்தன. 01.04.1950 அன்று மன்னர்களின் கட்டுப்பாட்டில் இயங்கி வந்த அனைத்து தபால் அலுவலகங்களும் இந்திய தபால் தந்தி துறையுடன் இணைக்கப்பட்டன. அங்கு புழக்கத்தில் இருந்த தபால் தலைகள், அஞ்சல் அட்டைகள், அஞ்சல் உறைகள் 30.4.1950 முடிய புழக்கத்தில் விட அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டன.

1879 -ம் முதல் ¼ அணாவாக இருந்த தபால் கார்டின் விலை 1921-ல் ½ அணாவாக உயர்த்தப்பட்டது. பின்னர் 15.02.1932 -ல் கார்டின் விலை 9 ps (¾ அணா) என உயர்த்தப்பட்டது. பின் ¼ அதன் விலை மீண்டும் 1946ல் ½ அணாவாக குறைவு செய்யப்பட்டது.

சுதந்திர இந்தியாவில் 7.09.1949ல் தான் 9 ps மதிப்பிலான மும்மூர்த்திகள் உருவம் தாங்கிய முதல் அஞ்சல் அட்டை வெளியிடப்பட்டது. 1950ல் 6ps (½ அணா) மதிப்பிலான உள்ளூர் பட்டுவாடா கார்டுகள் வெளியிடப்பட்டன. 12.10.1951-ல் தேச பிதா மகாத்மா காந்தியின் நினைவு சிறப்பு வெளியீடாக 4 விதமான அவரது உருவப் படங்களைக் கொண்ட 4 வித கார்டுகள் வெளியிடப்

பட்டன. தபால் கார்டுகள் சேகரிப்போர் இவற்றை அரிய பொக்கிஷமாக கருதுகின்றார்.



01.04.1957 இல் இந்திய நாணயம் தசம முறையாக மாற்றப்பட்ட பின்னர், உள்ளூர் டெலிவரிக்கு 3 பைசா மதிப்பிலும், வெளியூர் டெலிவரிக்கு 5 பைசா மதிப்பிலும் அஞ்சல் அட்டைகள் வெளியிடப்பட்டன. 01.07.1966 முதல் தபால் கார்டின் விலை 6 பைசாவாக உயர்த்தப்பட்டது. 15.5.1968 முதல் தபால் கார்டின் விலை 10 பைசா என உயர்வு செய்யப்பட்டது. 02.10.1969 ல் காந்தியின் நூற்றாண்டு சிறப்பு வெளியீடாக அவரது உருவப்படத்தை கொண்ட 3 விதமான கார்டுகள் 10 பைசா மதிப்பில் வெளியிடப்பட்டன. 01.06.1974 ல் தபால் கார்டின் விலை 15 பைசா என உயர்த்தப்பட்டது. பின்னர் 1997-ல் 25 பைசாவாக உயர்த்தப்பட்டு தற்போது 2001

முதல் தபால் கார்டின் விலை 50 பைசவாக உள்ளது.

1975-ம் ஆண்டு முதல் விளம்பர வாசகங்கள் அஞ்சல் அட்டையில் வெளியிட தொடங்கப்பட்டது. அஞ்சல் அட்டையின் வலது பக்க 1/2 பகுதியில் முகவரிக்கான இடத்தின் மேல் பக்கத்தில் தபால் தலையின் இடது பக்கம் விளம்பர வாசகங்கள் சுருக்கமாக அச்சிட்டு வெளியிடப்படுகிறது.



மேக்தூத் தபால் கார்டுகள் 2002 முதல் விளம்பரத்திற்காக வெளியிடப்பட்டு வருகிறது. பிரபல நிறுவனங்களும் அரசு துறைகளும் தங்களது விளம்பரத்திற்காக கட்டணம் செலுத்தி அச்சிடப்பட்டு வெளியிடப்படுகிறது. கார்டின் முன்பக்கத்தில் வலது பக்கம் முகவரிக்கான அரைப் பகுதி போக மீதியுள்ள இடது பக்க அரைப் பகுதியில் விளம்பரங்கள் வெளியிடப்படுகின்றன. இந்தியாவில் முதல் மேக்தூத் அஞ்சல் அட்டை தமிழ்நாட்டில் தான் வெளியிடப்பட்டது. நடிகர் ரஜினி கார்த்தின் பாபா பட விளம்பர அஞ்சல் அட்டை அச்சிடப்பட்டு 02.09.2002 அன்று வெளியிடப்பட்டது.



இப்படிப்பட்ட விளம்பர கார்டுகள் வெளியிட விளம்பரக் கட்டணம் பெறப்படுவதாலும் எழுதும் பகுதி குறைவாக இருப்பதாலும் 25 பைசா என குறைந்த விலை நிர்ணயம் செய்யப்பட்டு விற்பனை செய்யப்படுகிறது. இக் கார்டுகள் விளம்பரதாரர்கள் தெரிவிக்கும் பகுதிகளில் உள்ள தபால் நிலையங்களில் மட்டுமே விளம்பரத்திற்காக விற்பனை செய்யப்படுகின்றன.

இந்தியாவில் 1879 -ம் ஆண்டு முதல் தகவல் பரிமாற்றங்களுக்கு அஞ்சல் அட்டை உறுதுணையாக இருந்து சிறப்பாக பணியாற்றி வருகிறது. அது மட்டுமின்றி தற்போதைய நவீன தொழில் நுட்பயுகத்தில் தொலைபேசி, தொலைக்காட்சி, கம்ப்யூட்டர், இன்டர்நெட் மற்றும் செல்போன் ஆகியவைகளின் தகவல் பரிமாற்ற சேவைகளுக்கிடையில் அஞ்சல் அட்டை தனது பணியினை சிறப்புடன் ஆற்றி வருவதோடு விளம்பர பின்னணியையும் மேற்கொண்டு வருவது இதன் தனி சிறப்பு அம்சமாகும். □

Wilson Devaraj hails from Thuckalay. He is a member of SIPA specialises in postal stationery.

காட்சி! காட்சி! கண்காட்சி!

கவிஞர் நீரை அத்திப்பூ

காட்சியில் என்னென்ன அஞ்சல்தலை - நீ
கண்டு மகிழ்ந்திடு சிள்ளைமயி!
நாட்டு வளமுண்டு கண்டிடுவாய் - நீ
நல்ல அறிவினைப் பெற்றிடுவாய்!

ஏட்டிலே போற்றிய நல்லறிஞர் - பலர்
இங்கேயே காட்சியில் வந்துவிட்டார்
கேட்டுத் தெர்ந்திடு அவர்புகழை - பின்
கிட்டே நெருங்கியே வெற்றிகொள்வாய்!

அறிவியல் வரலாறு தொழில்நுட்பம் - பல
அற்புதக் கலைகளின் சிறப்போடு
நெறிகளைக் கூறிடும் வாழ்க்கை முறை - அது
நெஞ்சத்தில் பதித்திடும் உணர்வோடு!

நாடுகள் பற்றிய தகவல்களை - நீ
நன்கு தெரிந்திட வழிகாட்டும்!
லீடுகள் எங்கெங்கும் காணுகின்ற - பல
வெற்றி நிகழ்வுகள் நிலைநாட்டும்!

மொழிகள் பலவற்றைக் கற்பதற்கு - நீ
முயற்சி எடுத்திட ஊக்குவிக்கும்!
அழியாப் புகழ் உன்னை நாடிவர - அது
ஆற்றலைக் கூட்டிடும் ஆக்கம்தரும்!

அறிவியல் மேதைகள் அறிஞர்களும் - நல்
ஆட்சி புரிந்திட்ட நல்லவரும்
உறவினைப் போலவே உண்மை சொல்வார் - நீ
உற்றுக் கவனித்துக் கற்றுக் கொள்வாய்!

பாட்டுப் புறவைகள் உயிரினங்கள் - பல
பறப்பது போலவே கண்டிடுவாய்!
காட்டு விலங்குகள் கண்டிடவே - இங்கே
காட்சியில் சட்டங்கள் உள்ளனவே!

மலர்கள் சிரித்திடும் வண்ணத்திலே - உன்
மனமும் திளைத்திடும் வாசத்திலே!
பலரும் விரும்பிடும் அஞ்சல்தலை - காட்சி
பக்கத்தில் உள்ளது சென்றிடுவாய்!

வளரும் அறிவுக்கு முன்னோடி - உன்
வாழ்வில் வழிகாட்டும் கண்ணாடி!
புலருமே உன்வாழ்வு புகழோடு - நீ
புரிந்து முயன்றிடு உறவோடு!

அஞ்சல் வரலாறு கற்றுக்கொள்வாய் - நீ
அதிலே மகிழ்ந்தமே பற்றிக் கொள்வாய்!
விஞ்சிப் புகழ்பெறும் வித்தைபினை - அது
வென்று கொடுத்திடும் வந்திடுவாய்!

'பென்னி பிளாக்' என்னும் அஞ்சல்தலை-அது
பெற்றது முதலிடம் வெளியீட்டில்
இன்னும் இதுபோல தகவல்களை - உன்
இதயத்தில் காட்டிடும் கண்காட்சி!

அஞ்சல்தலைகளைச் சேர்ப்பதினால் - உன்
அத்தனைத் திறமையும் வலிவுபெறும்!
நெஞ்சிலே மாறாத மகிழ்ச்சி பொங்கி - உன்
நினைவிலே பத்தொளி தோன்றிவிடும்!

காலத்தைப் பொள்ளாக மாற்றுதற்கு - உன்
கண்முன்னே வழிகளைக் கொண்டுவரும்!
பாலத்தை வெற்றிக்குப் போட்டுவைக்கும்-உன்
பண்பு நலங்களை மேம்படுத்தும்!

உறவுகள் நட்புடன் உண்மை மனம் - வந்து
ஒன்றிடச் செய்திடும் அஞ்சல்தலை!
திரக்கும் வழிகளும் வெற்றிகண்டு - உன்
திறமை பளிச்சிடும் புதுமைகொண்டு!

கவிஞர் நீரை. அத்திப்பூ (சே. அப்துல் லத்தீப்) அஞ்சல் துறையின் உதவி இயக்குநராக இருந்து ஓய்வு பெற்றவர். இணைப்புரை வழங்குவதில் இணையற்ற இவர், தகவல் முத்துகள் இதழின் ஆசிரியர்.

Lead kindly Light History of Lighthouses

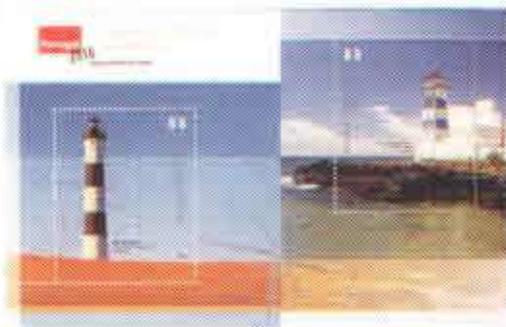
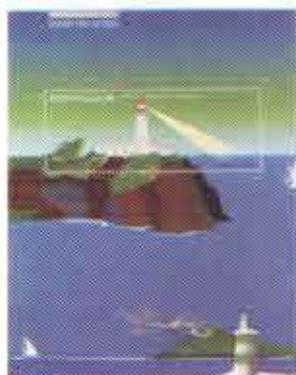
D.H. Rao



F A R O S 2 0 0 7



F A R O S 2 0 1 1



Introduction

When early mariners ventured into the dark oceans, in search of new lands to explore, to trade, to colonise, or to conquer, they had no means to find the right path to their destination. They always "hugged" the shore [not going beyond the sight of land], when Henry the Navigator's explorers started their perilous journey round the African Continent they always were in sight of land. There was no Navigational Instrument such as compass, sextant or telescope. They mostly relied on stars for night navigation.

Greeks and Romans, burnt wick in oil in large couldrums on a high land mass-mountain or buildings along the coast, to warn about dangerous obstacles such as hidden rocks, reefs and shoals in the sea close to the shore. These oil lamps also identified the harbor or port.

With great improvements in "LIGHTS" and "LENS", special structures were built to house these special LIGHTS-and were called "LIGHTHOUSES". Further design improvements made lights to flash, rotate, or simply fixed, by which one could identify, the location at nights... LIGHTHOUSES were painted-in horizontal bands, spiral bands, or chequered in different colours for identification till today.

We shall try to bring forth the history of LIGHT HOUSES from the day it was invented till today.

PART I, will tell about lighthouses, in detail – its type of structure, characteristics of light and other identification marks. etc.,

Part II, will deal with all world lighthouses by countries, alphabetically through stamps, pictorial cancellations, postal stationery, special covers, Bank notes and coins are made to tell the story of lighthouses.



Part I

Importance of a lighthouse can be best described when they show a helping hand for a ship in distress. Few countries have beautifully illustrated this agonizing scene on their stamps.

CUERPO DE VOLUNTARIOS DE LOS
BOTES SALVAVIDAS DE VALPARAISO



CINCUENTENARIO
15 DE ABRIL 1925-15 DE ABRIL 1975

Part 1

- 01. Early Lights
- 02. Lighthouse Structures
 - 02.01 Types
 - 02.02 Shapes
- 03. Identification of Lighthouses
 - 03.01 Lights
 - 03.02 Colours – Bands, Stripes
- 04. Various parts of Lighthouses
 - 04.01 Foundation
 - 04.02 Base
 - 04.03 Dwelling place
 - 04.04 Main structure
 - 04.04.01 Masonry
 - 04.04.02 Steel frame
 - 04.04.03 Iron, cast iron towers
 - 04.05 Staircase
 - 04.06 Gallery
 - 04.06.01 Single Gallery
 - 04.06.02 Two Galleries
 - 04.06.03 Three Galleries
 - 04.07 Lantern House
 - 04.08 Roof / Cupola
- 05. Postal stationery
 - 05.01 Post card
 - 05.02 Aerogramme
 - 05.03 Envelope
- 06 Pictorial Cancellation
- 07. Max card

01. Early Lights

The earliest lights were located on higher grounds - such as a hillock, or building.

Remains of Roman Lighthouses on a hillock near Dover, England and Boulogne during 1st or 2nd Century. A.D are the earliest ones still seen today.

The most famous of early lighthouse is undoubtedly the Pharos of Alexandria, which was built during the reign of Ptolemy II (283 - 247 B.C) by Sostratus of Cnidus.



Lighthouse fires were lit by braziers, in which wood and coal fires were burnt. It was also custom of Egyptian priests to light fires in their temples to warn their ships.

02. Lighthouse Structures

Structures are built to house the lights depending upon the location and building materials. Designers added beauty to make the structure more adorable than mere a building to install a light.

Along the coast line of Europe or America, one can see such beautiful lighthouses which are today tourist spots.

Many clubs and societies are formed to save such lighthouses.

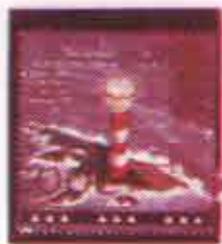
Easiest available building materials were used in the construction of a lighthouse. Thus we see today lighthouses of a mere wooden pole, wooden structure, stone, brick structures, mild steel, cast iron towers and the latest R.C.C. structures.

Early designers adopted geometrical shapes for the construction, such as circular, cylindrical, triangular, square, five sided (pentagon), six sided (hexagon, or 8 (octagon)









The lighthouse structure should be sturdy enough to withstand the fury of heavy winds, waves and climate.

The Sri Lankan m/s. shows the lighthouse withstanding the great Tsunami of 2004.



Structure Types,

Colour of Light houses

Characteristics of Lights

Various parts of Lighthouses

Postal Stationery



Changing face of postal stationery

S. Balasundaram

The advent of mobile technology, internet and email has challenged the very existence of the more than one and half century old postal system. Similarly the introduction of mechanical gadgets in post offices made drastic inroads into the conventional postage and the postal stationery.

Stamp cancelling machine

Almost all the operations of the post office are manually done over a long period of time. Introduction of stamp cancelling machine in the United States during 1870 (developed by Thomas Leavitt) is considered as the first mechanized operation relating to the handling of postal articles. After several decades, the system was introduced in post offices in India. A large number of major post offices in India were supplied with stamp cancelling machines which eliminated manual cancelling of mails posted for dispatch and received for delivery. The mails are arranged in a 'faced manner'-keeping the address portion at the top front side, and fed into the machine where the date stamp die, operated by a small motor affixes impressions at a speed of nearly 2,000 pieces per hour. The pre requisite for machine cancellation is that the stamps are to be affixed at the top right hand corner of the mail. Wavy

lines along with date stamp die were included to cancel more number of stamps affixed in a row, on the mails.



Hand cancellation of stamps



Cancellation by machine

PIN code

Next in the line was the introduction of alpha-numerical identification code for post offices, like ZIP code in the USA, Postcode in Great Britain and PIN code in India. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (now Russian Federation of CIS) was the first country to introduce postal code in December 1932. India Post introduced six digit numeric PIN code on 15 August 1972 with a view to speeding the sorting and delivery of mail and with far reaching idea of enabling the sorting of mail by machines. Recently India Post added two more digits representing the beat code of a particular delivery office.

600088-05 denotes the address in the delivery area of 5th postman's beat of Adambakkam post office at Chennai.



and Netherlands



Service post card having a PIN with beat code

Meter marking (Franking Machines)

Introduction of meter marking or franking impressions changed the face of the stationery. Mr. Arthur Pitney designed a postage meter in 1901 to help stamp out stamp theft and it took another ten years to form the Pitney Postal Machine Company to introduce a postage meter machine in 1912. This has eliminated the use of postage stamps on mail. In its place a franking impression with value of postage paid, date of posting and office with the user's license number were printed. Change of technology of franking machine from manual to mechanical and from mechanical and electro-mechanical to electronic are catching the attention of the users.

Multi-purpose counter machines (MPCM)

Introduction of multi-purpose counter machines in post offices, as part of modernization, to a major extent eliminated the usage of postage stamps. Computer-generated stickers indicating the postage paid and date and office of booking are affixed on mail. Wherever such MPCMs are installed a sharp decline in sale of postage stamps was noticed. Now the registered articles and EMS speed post items carry bar-code stickers to facilitate tracking.

Automatic Mail Processing Centres (AMPC)

India post, considering the fact that postal traffic in four metros, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai account for 20 per cent of total mail handled in the country, installed automatic integrated mail processing systems (AIMPS) in Mumbai in 1993 and in Chennai in 1996. For each centre, two letter sorting machines (LSM) with six advanced compact suites (ACS) were purchased from Alcatel-Bell, Belgium. While in the ACS the six digit PIN code in a mail is converted to fluorescent bar codes, LSM will read the fluorescent bar codes on the mail, speed-sort and send them to the respective bins, categorized according to delivery post office. The LSM has a sorting capacity of

10,00,000 mail pieces per day for over 1,500 destinations.

For optimum utilization of the mechanized sorting of mail there are certain pre-requisites such as availability of PIN code and free space of 15mm length at the bottom of mail to facilitate bar-coding. Hence all the postal stationery items were printed with special provisions for writing PIN code and printing bar-code. These are additional printings provided on the post card, inland card and embossed envelope, which otherwise contained only the motif and 2-3 lines for address.



Post cards with lines indicating space reserved for bar-code for machine-sorting.

Another major requirement for sorting of mails by machines is that their machinability. Machines do not accept mails which do not conform to certain parameters like, size and thickness. These standardized mails should be a minimum of 70 gsm for envelope and 140 gsm for card. The size of mail shall be between 14cm x 9 cm and 25 cm x 16 cm.

Culler, Facer Cancellor

The need for standardized mails was felt very much when India Post installed two

Culler, Facer Cancellor machines at Mumbai and Chennai during 2004-05 as part of the AIMP. These machines are designed to separate standard and non-standard mails and face the standard mails and cancel them at a very high speed. The facing of mails is done after the stamp detecting device in the equipment identifies the mail and then these mails are sent for cancelling area where they are cancelled. The scanner identifies the facing portion of a mail after reading the perforation dots of motif or image on them. If these are not in its position or in a disjointed or smudged manner, then the mail will be rejected. In order to have a higher read-rate a bar-code called 'serration marking' was printed alongside the motif on the post card, inland letter card, embossed envelope and aerogram. Samples are shown below:



E-Stamp

Using modern technology, e-stamp has been introduced in some countries opening up a new channel to the customers for buying postage online. The e-stamp is not the conventional postage,

but an image generated through computer and stuck on the mail. India Post also is planning to introduce online stamps from 2012.



With the objective of rendering quality service in an efficient and time-bound manner India Post has proposed to set up automatic mail processing centres for



sorting of mail in Delhi and Kolkata with one Letter Sorting Machine (LSM) and one Mixed Mail Sorter (MMS) each and

medium configuration machines are likely to be installed at Hyderabad and Bangalore.

Changing face

Two flap inland lettercards were discontinued since they were damaged due to the ballooning effect of the ungummed flaps in the machines in AMPC. In its place three flap ILC was introduced, which is fully machinable. The changes in shape, size and thickness of postal stationery that have taken place due to the induction of technology are shown below:

More and more mechanization of postal operations will surely have an adverse impact on sale of postage stamps and stationery, but this will not deter a real stamp lover from delving deep into the world of

philately to enjoy and share the joy of collection and exhibition of the 'tiny bits of paper'.

S. Balasundaram, recipient of 'Meghdoot Award' from the Govt. of India is on the rolls of Bureau of Indian Standards as an Expert of ISO 9000 quality management certification. An avid collector of stamps, his interests encompass nature, art, literature, sports and China-studies. e.mail : bala1947@rediffmail.com

The story of communication

G. Amarchand

We are in an era of electronic communication. Most of our communications are through emails and sms. In spite of all these advancements in the field of communication postal service is still doing its best.

Early postal services

In primordial days, postal service was considered as a privilege of kings and emperors alone, to communicate to different parts of the empire and to keep track of events. All early systems were run along courier routes in India, Egypt, China and Great Britain. Mail runners carried mail passing through jungles, climbing hills, crossing rivers, encountering wild animals and sometimes dacoits!

The history of postal system can be traced back to 1296, during the period of Alauddin Khilji, when horse and foot service was started, mainly to get news on the position and progress of his army. Sher Shah (1541 – 1545) who built a 2000-mile road improvised this system. He used horses to carry messages. During the reign of Akbar (1556 – 1605) camels were also used. Raja Chikka Deva of Mysore established a regular postal service in 1672.



Regularizing Postal Service :

In the early days postage had to be paid in cash at the time of posting at the post office. These letters were cancelled with words POST PAID or FULL POST PAID. Letters for which the postage had not been paid were also accepted but they were marked with cancellations UNPAID or POST NOT PAID. The postage fees on such letters were recovered from the addressees.

1837 saw the first Post Office Act being introduced. This Act not only modernized the system but also gave the government exclusive rights to postal service throughout the nation. Sallient points of the Act are : a) a stamp should be convenient to handle, b) it should be safe

against forgery, c) it should be easy to examine and check at the post office, and d) the expense of production and circulation should be given.

Development of Postage Stamps

Basically, early postal history of India falls into two categories: a) those used by the East India Company prior to 1837 and b) those used after the Post Office Act of 1837.

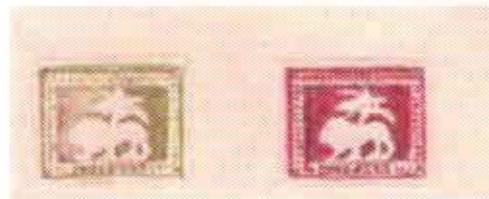
East India Company, in 1688, first established major post offices at Bombay and Madras. Smaller post offices were functioning in other places too. Lord Clive improved the postal system in 1766, though it was reserved for Government use only. In 1774 the system was thrown open to the public. During this time the lowest rate of letter postage was 2 anna for every 100 miles. To facilitate the payment of postage a special copper token of 2 anna value was used.

In 1852 Sir Bartle Frere, the Commissioner of Sind District, first introduced paper stamps in token of pre-payment of postage, in the province of Sind. These are the famous 'Scinde Dawk' – the first postage stamps in Asia.

The central design of the stamps was the East India Company's brood arrow and the stamps were embossed in vermilion, white and blue. Vermilion stamps were first used but they had a short life because they were embossed on brittle wafers. White stamps were then used but

embossing on white paper made them inconspicuous. So, the stamps were finally made in colour on white paper.

Indian Essays, Proofs, Specimens and Reprints



Essay

Before printing of a stamp, a design is contemplated and is drawn and this layout is called as 'essay'. Even in approved designs, major and minor alterations are made before the final designs are approved for printing. Hence, mostly there has always been a difference between a printed stamp and essay.

Proof

When an essay is approved, the design is transferred to plate or stone and impressions are made and these impressions are called 'proofs'. There are two types: a) proofs that are before the printing of actual stamps, b) proofs that are taken before destroying the dies or plates, for the purpose of records or exhibition, etc. Proofs may not be necessarily be in the same colour of the stamps issued.

Specimens

These are samples which are printed for

the issuing authorities as issues of their respective countries.

After the 'Scinde Dawk' there was a general issue of stamps in India. The first design was the 'Lion and Palm Tree' made by Colonel Forbes of the Calcutta mint. But he could not ensure adequate supply and the design was never made.

Captain Thuillier then Deputy Surveyor General of India at Calcutta began his experiments of printing stamp in India and designed a type of Litho – press in which he was finally successful in printing English Vermilion colour of ½ Anna value. But the English Vermilion being exhausted and the use of indigenous red pigment proved disastrous and again the printed stamps had to be cancelled. A specimen copy is, however, preserved in National Philatelic Museum, Delhi. These ½ Anna stamps which were printed but not used are popularly known as '9 ½ Arches' These stamps were ungummed and imperforated.

Once again Cap. Thuillier, with the help of Murnoodin the engraver prepared the lithographic stones and he succeeded in

bringing out the first all India stamp in September 1854.

The stamps were of ½ anna value, blue in colour and had Queen Victoria's head on them. Later, others of 1 anna, 2 annas and 4 annas value were printed.

From 1856 to 1926, Messers Thomas De Rue & Co of London printed Indian stamps. The design was changed with the change of the ruler. These stamps carried the head of Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VII in succession. Stamps of different denominations were printed in different colors.

In 1926, the Indian Security Press was set up at Nashik. First Indian Pictorial stamp was issued in 1931 to commemorate the inauguration of New Delhi. To make the stamps more attractive and colourful, multicolour printing machine has been installed at the India Security Press, Nashik.

To this day, the postal department continues its yeoman service in communication and postage stamps and its postal history continues to be a subject of interest.

G.Amarchand, Vice President of SIPA, specializes in lithographs, India, Great Britain, Australia and Mahatma Gandhi. He won several awards in national and international philatelic exhibitions.

Celebrating the International Year of Forests – the Europa Way

Dr T Murugavel

When the United Nations declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests the countries world over celebrated it by issuing stamps that showcased not only their forest wealth and diversity but also their importance in preserving our planet Earth for the next generation. Some of the most interesting stamps are of Europa series.

The stamp issued by Denmark shows a Red Squirrel climbing up a tree trunk. It is a simple but effective design illustrating the web of life.



The Slovenia stamp depicts two trees: Beech and Sgerm's Pine representing its forests. While the former is the most widespread tree



and the latter is the tallest (51.8 meters) pine in the Central Europe.

The stamp of Germany portrays trees in a silhouette. The picture intends to create awareness on the lost forest cover as only one third of the original forest is left in the country.

Luxembourg is still the most wooded territory of the Europe, as 34% of its land cover is still forest. Trees like beech and oak dominate these forests. Though the country has lost some tree cover for its developmental projects the recent management policies implemented by the government have preserved the forest till date.

Island's stamps stand as examples of creativity. One pictures the tree-rings symbolizing the resources produced by



the forest and the other a close-up of leaf indicates the impounding of carbon from the atmosphere by the leaves.

Slovakia devoted its stamp to its Poloniny National Park – its largest



protected area and one of the last primeval forests of the region.

The French government has its stamp represented by leaves that are portrayed like trees along with mushrooms,



red squirrel and bird indicating the biodiversity of a virgin forest. The image also indicates the uniqueness of the nation, as the leaves displayed represent the trees of the

regions – temperate, Mediterranean, and mountainous terrain. Spain's stamp shows its grandeur of forest in totality.



Austria's stamp stands as an icon for innovation and creativity. Designed by Michael Rosenfeld, a portion of the stamp contains



trees.

a mixture of seeds from Austrian Spruce

Dr T Murugavel, Professor of English in a reputed engineering college, has a passion for philately. He is a nature lover and wildlife photographer. An ornithologist, he is a member of Madras Naturalists' Society. email : mcwhale@svce.ac.in

Promoting philately - the Chinese way!

China has begun collecting handwritten letters between family members from Chinese people both at home and abroad, as experts say they may become precious cultural heritage with the development of modern correspondence technologies like e-mails. These letters are a package of various cultures in literature, aesthetics and calligraphy. They also reflect the development of China's traditional rites, papermaking industry, post and package services, said Bai Gengsheng, deputy director of the China Folk Literature and Art Society, in charge of the collection project.

They have not only helped maintain the emotional attachment between family members but also record the changing society over the past hundreds and thousands of years, Mr. Bai was quoted as saying by Xinhua news agency. Mr. Bai worries that the next generation may know little about handwritten letters as an increasing number of people have turned to e-mails, cell phones and other modern channels for communication. He said the project will welcome all kinds of handwritten letters between family members, including letter paper and envelopes.

A composite symbol of Jain teaching on stamp

K. Ramachandran

It is a well-known fact that a large Buddhist monastery of antiquity, popularly known as *Choodamani Vihara*, existed in Nagapattinam. But the recent find, in the town, of the stone image of a Tirthankara (see picture below), about 45 cm tall, sent a wave of excitement among the members of our team.



The statue has, in pan-Indian context, all the profiles intact, including the triple umbrella canopy. Sitaraman, whose family is now worshipping the image, stated that

the statue which was originally found on the banks of Devanadi forming the western boundary of Nagapattinam town was brought and installed at his place some five decades ago. To the East-Tanjore region this is an addition which is indicative of the prevalence of Jainism in Nagapattinam in the distant past. This is besides the discovery of the earliest Pallava copper plates at Pallankoil, stone images of Tirthankaras in places like Panchanadikulam, Tiruthuraipoondi, Mannargudi, Deepangudi, Thappalampuliyur and

Sirangudipuliyur. All this shows that considerable adherents inhabited the region in medieval time when Jain religion was growing in strength.

Be that as it may. India Post released a stamp on 6 April 2001 by way of paying homage to Bhagwan Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara, on the occasion of his 2600th birth anniversary.



Rather than portraying the anthropomorphic representation of Mahavira this stamp depicts a composite symbol of Jain teaching, as Jesus Christ delivering 'Sermon on the Mount' was obscured in the classic movie *Ben Hur*. This impersonal approach is quite appropriate to a sophisticated teacher like Mahavira.

Jainism is one of the oldest living religions of the world. It is the successor of *Sraman* tradition. Its origin could be traced to Rishabhanatha who was the first Tirthankara. Tirthankaras were perfect men, called by epithets like *Arhats* or *Jinas*, who conquered lower nature and reached divinity.

Mahavira's life was simple, but his teachings were sublime. He was called Vardhamana at birth. He took to asceticism and led a life of penance and self-purification for twelve years before becoming a great teacher. He attained *parinirvana* (salvation) after seventy-two years of sojourn on the planet Earth.



Bhagwan Mahavira (599 BC – 527 BC) propounded a philosophy which stressed on five principles in everybody's life. They are : *Ahimsa* (non-violence), *Satya* (truth), *Asteya* (non-stealing), *Brahmacharya* (celibacy) and *Aparigraha* (non-possession). This made Jainism predominantly an ethical religion. Of these, strict observance of non-violence is a positive philosophy of

love which greatly influenced leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King in our times.

Mahavira practised what he preached. 'Never remain negligent even for a while' were his last words after delivering a lecture for 48 hours. We pay our obeisance to him.

At various times India Post has issued stamps relating to Jainism and some are seen above. □

K. Ramachandran is Secretary, East Tanjore Historical Research Centre, Nagapattinam. He is currently engaged in the study of Pallankoil copper plates relating to Jainism. He has travelled many parts of Tamil Nadu collecting materials for research and pieces of evidence on his topic and maintains liaison with the ASI, Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, Tamil University and Dr. Rasamanickanaar History Research Centre, Trichy, email : muraa3369@yahoo.com

Bridges in Indian philately

Rolands J Nelson

AMONG the many man-made structures, bridge is the only one which catches everybody's eye with its elegance and charm. Be it an old Roman brick arch form or the modern 'Golden gate' type suspension bridge form, a bridge really invites every one to stand on it and have a heart-warming feeling with its attractive surrounding. The reason may be as nature in its pristine form with mountains, valleys, forests, etc attracts one and all and makes them sit in its cradle and enjoy its variety, a bridge also ties the viewer in its fold which may have a valley to cross over or mountains to connect or in the least a river to ford about. As such, a bridge lies more or less in the midst of nature's beautiful setting.

It is no wonder that bridges of various forms invite the stamp



designers to go for them to be fixed as vignette of a stamp, may be individually or in a natural surrounding or value added with a train running on it.



Coming to Indian philately, we do have some worth while

commemoratives on bridges, but of course a few and about a dozen only. In the post-Independence period, out of about 2,700 commemorative stamps issued, only a handful of stamps have bridges as their motif.



From the day of Independence, for about forty years the bridge as a subject for stamp issue did not happen. The first bridge to be commemorated by India Post was the Kalia Bhomora rail bridge built across Brahmaputra for a length of 3 km in Tezpur and opened to traffic on 14 April 1987.

The pride of place of the theme goes to the miniature sheet with a set of four bridges, rightly titled "Landmark bridges of India" which shows four bridges differing in material, design and function. It included one century-old steel movable bridge and one modern suspended chord bridge of the last decade. Of course two of these four bridges were depicted in the composite

designs of two earlier commemoratives also.



Bridge is an eternal theme which can be used for stamp design, for a long time to come. In a vast country like India there

BRICK ARCH BRIDGE OF 1870 ACROSS VENNAR



are hundreds of bridges all over the country like the 140-year old heritage bridge (shown here)

or the two-decade old Pamban road bridge in sea (2 km in length) connecting the holy island of Rameswaram with the mainland Tamil Nadu which can be commemorated as sets year after year.

Of course, we philatelists are happy over the proposed issue of a set of four railway bridges in December 2011.

Indian stamps on bridges

Sl No.	Phila No.	Denom.	Details
1.	519	20p.	Calcutta Port Trust Old Hoogly bridge.
2.	1072	200	Elec. Loco on viaduct.

3.	1074	200	Kalia Bhomora bridge Brahmaputra river Tezpur, Assam.
4.	1115	60	Golden Temple, Amritsar bridge passage.
5.	1325	200	Se-tenant. Vidyasager setu, Calcutta Suspended Chord type.
6.	1619	800	Diesel train on viaduct Konkan Railway.
7.	2007	500	Madhumati bridge, Bangladesh. Constructed by Bengal Sappers.
8.	2071	500	Train overbridge
	2072	500	(mild background Right)
9.	2286	500	Pamban bridge Rail bridge – movable type.
10.	2287	500	Vidyasagar Setu. Suspended chord type.
11.	2288	500	Howrah bridge. Steel truss bridge
12.	2289	500	Mahatma Gandhi Setu. Concrete bridge
13.	M/s.	500	Silent valley. Suspension bridge.

TAILPIECE : In postal stationery category, a postcard, one in a set of four, issued by Indian Post & Telegraph Department in 1935 shows a picture of a railway bridge in Kashmir. □

Rolands J Nelson a civil engineer, is a senior philatelist and Secretary SIPA. He is a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee, Department of Posts, India.

From accumulation to thematics - an evolutionary process

M T Karunakaran

In the beginning, the term philately was limited in its scope and implied mere collection of postage stamps. The scope has now considerably widened to include not only the mere collection but study of stamps on thematic lines.

The 'Penny Black', the first ever designed adhesive postage stamp, was a well thought out and artistic one. The choice of the young Queen Victoria's head was a great success in promoting philately. The shape and size of the 'Penny Black' pattern was copied by other countries in subsequent years. Many countries started issuing postage stamps and it was a welcome move for the country-wise stamp collection. The early philatelists were confined to collection of stamps of a particular country or a few selected countries. Many others attempted to collect stamps from as many countries as possible. Most of them in their attempts could not collect stamps entirely. Complete collection was found extremely difficult as the number of stamps increased manifold. The collectors in spite of their arduous efforts felt handicapped.

Gradually the critical study of perforations, watermarks, etc. gained momentum and made philately an interesting study. This fascinating hobby captured the attention of a great many,



starting from school children and extending up to septuagenarians. Despite this philately recorded a phenomenal progress. If philately had confined its scope to the mere collection of stamps, its pursuit would have been ephemeral and faced stagnation, in the absence of intellectual appeal. But in a few years it made a steady progress as more and more philatelists got themselves involved in critical study.

The specialists instead of confining themselves to mere collection of stamps started making analytical studies of various manufacturing methods involved in the printing of stamps such as recess printing, lithograph, etc. which were the process adopted in the early stages. Very minute yet discernible variations or differences which existed between one stamp and another in the same printing block, the rectifications or corrections made in subsequent printing blocks were

discovered by the keen and penetrating eyes of the specialists. They fixed the variations with reference to the position of each differing stamp in the block. Some had taken great pains to reassemble the used stamps as a sheet comparable to the original sheet indicating the differences that existed in the original printing stone or block. Such an earnest study and analysis plus gathering of all the specimens involved considerable time and money for acquisition of adequate material. Only a few could afford such luxury.

Commemorative stamps

Since the issue of Penny Black there has been rapid growth and development in stamp designing and printing. Today all the countries of the world are issuing numerous amazingly beautiful thematic and subject stamps. On account of this, a majority of the philatelists of the present day are devoting themselves increasingly

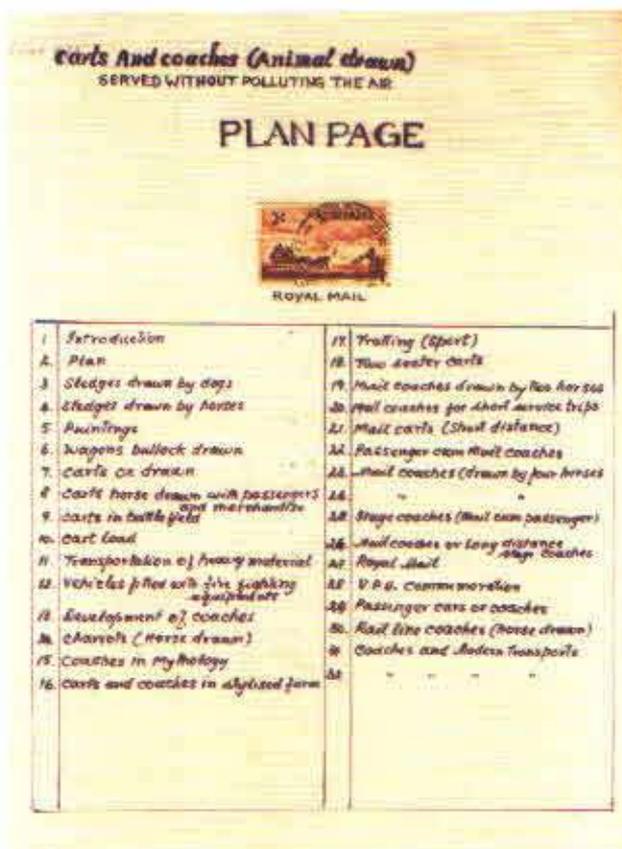
to the pastime of topical and thematic collection. Under this branch of philately commemorative stamps also play an important role.

The issue of commemorative stamp is nothing new. It has been claimed that the first commemorative was the 5 centavos stamp issued by Peru in 1871. This stamp which depicts a locomotive was intended for use in mails carried on a newly opened railway line connecting Lima, Callao and Chorrillos.

The first commemorative 'series' was issued by the New South Wales, an Australian State to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the colony's

formation. As this series remained in use for a number of years they were considered as 'definitives'. The inscription 'one hundred years' on them however proclaims the interest of issuing them as commemoratives.

The early commemoratives were first considered as speculative stamps. Some



philatelists of that period opposed such issues. They even formed a society which however later on passed into oblivion. At first the issue of commemoratives was confined to individual countries which brought out stamps to mark their national events. The day of commemorative multiple issue began when the U.S.A. celebrated the 400th anniversary of the landing of Columbus in the Columbian exposition series. So also Salvador and

Nicaragua in 1892 and Venezuela in 1893 commemorated the same event showing the explorer's advent to the New World. To begin with, the commemorative stamps were very few in number. Subsequently the issue of commemorative stamps gained a momentum. Today there are several thousands of commemorative stamps out of which more than two hundred different thematic or subject collections could be formed. □

M.T.Karunakaran, ex-Vice President and Secretary of South India Philatelists' Association, was the founder-editor of the bi-monthly *SIPA Bulletin*. He has been in the field of philately for more than six decades and he has specialized in 'overprints, surcharges and endorsements.' His articles appeared in more than thirty leading philatelic magazines in India and he has won several awards/medals for his entries in the national and International exhibitions. A numismatist, he has been Secretary of Madras Coin Society and edited its Special Bulletins.

Personalised Stamp

Jammu and Kashmir Postal Circle became the first State which launched the "My Stamp" concept on September 26 at a four-day-long Philatelic Exhibition. The Department of Posts has come up with a novel idea to re-establish connection with the people.

Chief Post Master General, J&K Circle, John Samuel said though the concept was unveiled in Delhi last year this State would be the first to do it in practical terms. It is a novel method to emotionally connect with people, as the customer's picture will appear on the stamp he chooses to buy.

Seven cameras were set up for taking photos of the customers who can pick up the stamps of their choice and by evening they would get them along with their pictures.. The concept had been working well in Singapore, United Kingdom and other countries.

In Memoriam

Shri Muralilal Pittie (1941-2010) whose untimely demise caused an irreparable loss has left an immense void in the world of Indian and international philately. He was a humble, kind-hearted, pious and affectionate person. He was one of the most respected and revered personalities in the philatelic fraternity.



He was an accredited Jury Team Leader and Juror of Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) and Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP). He had served as President, Vice President, Secretary or a member of the Jury in several FIAP / FIP international / world philatelic exhibitions held in various countries.

He was Vice President of the Hyderabad Philatelic and Hobbies Society from 1971 to 2000 and its President since 2001. He was a founder member of the Philatelic Congress of India, the national federation formed in 1975 and held various top positions in it.

He was Secretary-General of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP) from 1996 to 2001, Vice-President from 2002-2005 and Senior Consultant since 2006.

He was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Philately Society London (FRPSL) in 1989. He was a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee, Ministry of Communications, Government of India for several years.

He had formed one of the best collections of the Hyderabad princely state stamps, postal stationery, postal history, revenue stamps and stamped papers. His traditional Hyderabad state exhibit had won four Large Gold medals at the FIP world exhibitions and was subsequently displayed in the Court of Honours in several exhibitions. His other traditional exhibit on erstwhile Convention States had won gold medal.

He had played important role in organizing several Asian International and FIP World Philatelic Exhibitions held in India since 1977. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the ASIANA 77, the first Asian International Stamp Exhibition held in Bangalore, a member of the Executive Committee of the INDIA '80, the first FIP World stamp Exhibition held in India at New Delhi, a member of the Organizing Committee of INDEPEX 97, the FIP World Philatelic Exhibition held in New Delhi and a Co-Vice Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the INDEPEX ASIANA 2000, the Asian International Philatelic Exhibition held in Calcutta.

He had represented India and FIAP in several FIP Congresses held in various countries during the last three decades. He was an Indian delegate to the FIP Traditional Philately Commission.

A Requiem for 'Coin Man' - cum - Philatelist

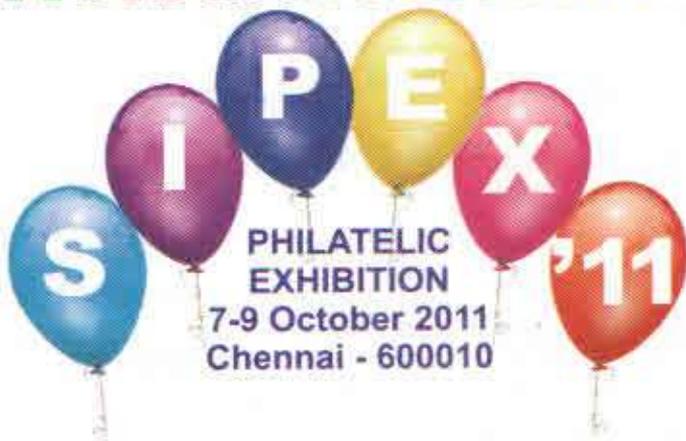


S.B. Raja Seetharaman (1968-2008), a numismatist, notaphilist and philatelist, whose life had promised so much, yet had been cut so short. An ardent member of SIPA, Seetharaman met an untimely death. Heritage was close to his heart as revealed by preservation of his ancestral age-old building at Chintadripet, Chennai. He lived up to his motto "Let us make things better and be proud owners of our heritage".

Graduated from Vivekananda College, Seetharaman was groomed by Mr.M.T.Karunakaran, senior research scholar in philately and renowned numismatist and Mr.D.H.Rao, past president of SIPA and Madras Coin Society (MCS). His active participation in several exhibitions conducted by SIPA and MCS brought him laurels. He made his services available for the successful conduct of the national exhibition, INPEX 2008, at Chennai.

'What Seetharaman treasured most was his meeting with Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam. A few months before he became President, Kalam dropped by one late night to see a coin exhibition Seetharaman had organized at V.Kalyanam's home. "So you are the coin man!" Kalam exclaimed on seeing the young man. It was a greeting Seetharaman kept recounting proudly to his friends.'

May Seetharaman's work inspire others!



Sipex 2011

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