



# SIPA

## Bulletin

For Circulation to Members only

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Bimonthly

### SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS ASSOCIATION

( Founded 1956 )

( Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India )

#### OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1980-81

President :	Mr. V. N. S. Rao
Vice-President :	„ G. Madanmohandas
Treasurer :	„ S. Mahalingam
Secretaries :	„ G. Balakrishnadas
„	„ K. Prasad

#### Members of the Working Committee

Mr. S. Ramaswamy
„ M. T. Karunakaran
„ A. Tiruvengada Gupta
„ N. Shankar Row
„ A. C. Thirilokanath
„ V. Sridar

#### Your address

Members are requested to notify any change in their address immediately to the Secretary of our Association.

*The views contained in the articles published are the author's own and not necessarily those of the Association.*

Dear member,

Our first bulletin was released by Mr. K. Muthuswamy, one of our senior members: to the pleasure of the members present, during the monthly meeting, at the Philatelic Bureau hall on 13-7-80.

Mr. G. Madanmohandas, Vice President of the association, who presided, spoke on the purpose and usefulness of the Bulletin, especially for the junior philatelists

We thank all those who have been of assistance and help in bringing out the first issue of this Bulletin successfully in time. We thank the advertisers for their utilising this bulletin as a medium. Our special thanks to the printer for his sincere co-operation for the timely release of the bulletin. We also thank the members for their valuable suggestions. We sincerely hope that such co-operation will continue in the future to make the Bulletin serve its purpose.

Thanking you,

Philatelically Yours'  
Editor.

#### Meetings

The regular meetings of our association are conducted on the **Second Sunday** of every month at the Philatelic Bureau, Anna Road, P. O.

Members are requested to attend the meetings regularly and benefit by the lectures given by senior philatelists like Mr. V. N. S. Rao, Mr. S. Ramaswamy, Mr. G. Madanmohan Das and others.

The auction meetings are held on every third Sundays at the association office at No. 41, Perumal Mudali Street, Madras-600 001.

All communications relating to the Bulletin should be addressed to Mr. M. T. Karunakaran, Editor, SIPA Bulletin, No. 2, IIIrd Cross St., Jayanagar, Tambaram Sanatorium Madras-600 047.

# MOBILE POST OFFICE IN MADRAS

A. RAVOOF,

48, Dr. A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar St., K. K. Nagar, Madras-600 078.

The first Indian Inland Night Mail Service Commenced on the 30th January 1949 from Nagour to Delhi. This was followed by the All-up Night Mail Service on 1st April 1949. The author of this scheme was Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the then minister for Communications in the central Cabinet. The principle of this scheme was the speedy delivery of mails from one corner of India to the other corner. The mail was delivered the next day.

To cater to the needs of the public a mobile post office in a specially-fitted motor van was organised to post letters after the closing hours of the post offices and to catch the Night Air Mail Service or the earlier mail trains, which ever offers the most expeditious delivery at destinations.

Postage stamps and stationery are sold by this Post Office and it accepts Ordinary and registered articles and air parcels. It functioned on all days, including Sundays and Postal Holidays.

The first Mobile Post Office in the city of Madras was inaugurated on 1st August 1951 by late Shri. Rajaji who was then the Chief Minister of Madras. This van was named Hansa by Rajaji. It halted for half an hour at each of the under-mentioned places only.

Ripon Buildings : Opp. Ripon Buildings  
P. O. 5-00 to 5-30 p.m.

Rattan Bazaar : Opp. Liberty Store -  
5-45 to 6-15 p.m.

Marina : Opp. Presidency College -  
6-30 to 7-00 p.m.

Mylapore : Post Office Compound - 7-15  
to 7-45 p.m.

Theagaraya Nagar : Opp. Ramakrishna  
Mission High School - 8-00 to 8-30 p.m.

This Mobile P. O. was Mobile Post Office No. 1 and catered to the residents of South Madras

As on date, ie. with effect from 1st August 1980 the timings of this Mobile P O have been revised and certain stages have been eliminated and needed ones added. The following are

the revised stages and timings; Kuralagam 4-40 to 5 p.m., Marina 5-15 to 5-35 p.m., Besant Nagar 6-05 to 6-30 p.m., Adyar 6-40 to 7-05 p.m. Mylapore 7-20 to 7-45 p.m. and Saidapet 8-10 to 8-35 p.m.

From the revised timings you will find that instead of Rattan Bazaar, it functions at Kuralagam. This was necessitated due to shifting of pavement vendors on China Bazaar to the adjacent of M. U. C. Service at Theagaraya Nagar is discontinued since T. Nagar P. O. was made a Head Post Office on 1st Feb. 1973, which works till 8-30 p.m. Saidapet stage was added during the P & T week this year.

The Second Mobile Post Office No. 2, was inaugurated in 1956 by Shri. Sri Prakasa the then Governor of Madras. This van was named Megadoot and caters to the public in North Madras.

The present timings of this P.O is as follows:

End of Wall Tax Road, Mindal Sevaraja Puram 4-15 to 4-40 p.m.; Perambur Railway Station 5-10 to 5-30 p.m. Opp. to Roxy Theatre- 5-45 to 6-10 p.m; near Dasaprakash Hotel 6-20 to 6-45 p.m; Aminjikarai 7-05 to 7-25 p.m. and Kodambakkam:- Opp. Pesum Padam 7-55 to 8-20 p.m.

These are Mobile Post Offices in nomenclature but functions under the R. M. S. (Railway Mail Service) - Though the Night Air Mail Services were abolished in 1922 these Post Offices still function and serve the public. Now from 1st Nov 1974 it works on all days except Sundays and three National Holidays

Yet another Mobile P. O. functions during the fore noon. This Post Office is not under the R.M.S. but an extension service of Park Town Office. It accepts Money Orders etc., and in the sense is a Mini Post Office on wheels. It halts for one hour at the following places from 8-00 a.m. Opp. to Elephant Gate Police Station and rear Padmanabha Theatre on Wall Tax Road. This Post Office is in Service from past five years and very few know about its existence

## MEMBER'S EXHIBIT

### At the Philatelic Bureau, Madras

In his enthusiastic desire to promote philately, the Post-master General, Madras, has allotted space on the eastern wall of the Philatelic Bureau, Madras, for public display of selections from our members' stamp collections. Our President, Mr V. N. Srinivasa Rao, set the ball rolling by displaying a few sheets from his fine collection. Then followed exhibits by Messrs. G. Madan Mohan Das, G. Balakrishna Das and Dr. K. S. Rao.

Mr. Vummidi Mukunda, one of our earnest junior members, has come forward and put up for view a selection of about 200 stamps depicting flowers. This attractive exhibit was on view during the last month.

Flower, as a theme, is an immense subject and one cannot do proper justice to the theme in just two frames of thirty two album pages. Still, Mr. Mukunda has done a neat job and a nice display is the result.

The write up to each stamp is, however, a bit too much, as many viewers may not have the patience to read it. This may be cut down to essentials, omitting the botanical details, though a lot of study has gone into the gathering of the details.

Grouping of the stamps has mostly been done by countries and not by the genera. Several countries, like Switzerland have issued enough stamps showing flowers to make an attractive exhibit by themselves. Also each species is now representable on their stamps by many countries, e.g. Roses, Orchids etc. Attempts could be effectively made to show such grouped collections focussing attention on particular aspects.

More and more of our new enthusiasts should follow Mr. Mukunda's fine example and offer delightful displays of their collections in the coming months, while our experienced members could, by putting up good exhibits, share their knowledge with others with mutual pleasure.

S. RAMASWAMY.

## Philatokyo '81 :

In 1979 PHILATOKYO '79 International stamp exhibition commemorating the centenary of the first Japanese postage stamp was held in TOKYO sponsored by the Federation Internationale de philatelie (F.I.P.). Although the exhibition was open to Japanese stamps only, the limitation made the show most exiting. Now, the philatelic circle of Japan has become matured enough to host a full scale International exhibition under the patronage of F.I.P. in TOKYO from 9th to 18th day of October, 1981, to mark the occasion of the 110th anniversary of Japanese stamps. The exhibition will contain over 3000 frames of competitive class for stamps of the world, and the visitors will also enjoy many invited philatelic varieties.

Mr. Pittie, who is a life member of our association, a gold medalist at the recently held London-80 and also a member of the Philatelic Advisory Committee of Government of India has been nominated as Commissioner for India for TOKYO-80 International Philatelic stamp exhibition.

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### Members' New Address

1. S. MAHALINGAM,  
12, Vasan Street, Perambur,  
Madras-600 011
2. A. RAMAKRISHNAN,  
Plot No. 6, Kuringi Nagar,  
Royapettah Village, Chrompet,  
Madras-600 044

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**Mr. V. N. S. Rao** the President of our association, who was on a trip to the United States; after attending London - 80', International stamp exhibition in London, has now returned back. We shall publish his observations on 'London-80', in our next bulletin.

# UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

M. T. KARUNAKARAN

Today Universal Postal Union is a specialized agency of the United Nations, in the field of postal activity.

When it was started in the year 1874 it comprised the following 22 nations only.

Australia	Germany	Luxembourg	Russia
Belgium	Great Britain	Netherlands	Serbia
Denmark	Greece	Norway	Spain
Egypt	Hungary	Portugal	Sweden
France	Italy	Roumania	Switzerland
Turkey and United States.			

After a century in 1974, there were 157 member countries. At present almost all the nations of the world have become members.

The first international postal meeting was organised by Montgomery Blair, Post-master general of the United States, in the year 1863. 15 European countries and the United States met in Paris. They passed a number of resolutions. But the decisions were, however, not binding on the Government of the countries who subscribed to the resolutions passed in the meeting. Further, the progress in this direction was set back by the American Civil and Franco-Prussian wars.

However, another attempt was made eleven years after to organise a sort of International postal union. At the instance of Heinrich Von Stephan of Germany, the Swiss Government convened an International Postal Congress on September 15, 1874 at Berne, Switzerland. The convention established the "General Union of Posts."

The broad principles adopted in 1874 were that each member country should (1) undertake to carry the mail from other member countries (2) use uniform rates and weight (3) follow the agreed rules for the classification and accept-

tance of postal articles (4) make payment to the national authorities for carriage of mails and not to the country of destination (5) adopt a common system for registration and compensation.

During the second conference held in Paris in 1878. The union was renamed as "Universal Postal Union". Two years after the birth of the United Nations in 1947, the Universal Postal Union Congress opted to merge as a separate wing of the United Nations and become one of its specialized agencies.

Since its inception eighteen congresses have been held at various places all over the world by the Universal Postal Union; both before and after the formation of the United Nations. The last one was held at Rio-de Janeiro, Brazil from 12th September - 27th October 1979.

In the above said congresses and in the course of a period of more than a century several useful and important resolutions have been agreed upon and followed in pursuit of up grading and speeding the postal services throughout the world.

All along, the purpose of the Universal Postal Union has been to develop the communications between the nations of the world and to help the postal administration function efficiently and quickly. Because of its efforts in the present day the mail travels from one country to another as if there exist no borders.

All the member countries have issued a number of stamps commemorating the 50th, 75th and the centenary celebrations and to mark the congresses that have been held at various places, most of them with the UPU symbol depicting the beautiful monument that stands in the union head quarters at Berne.

New enthusiasts may find these interesting for a thematic collection.

## Silver Jubilee Year:

Next year, 1981 will be the Silver Jubilee Year of our Association. During that year it is proposed to celebrate by conducting an exhibition at a grand scale in Madras. A Souvenir also is proposed to be issued. Separate Committees will be formed for the above. Suggestions from members are invited for consideration by the executive committee.



## Auction Meetings :

The auction meetings of our association took place at the association premises on 20-7-80 and 17-8-80. The response was very encouraging. Several Philatelic items including mint and used stamps, stationery items, First Day covers, old stamp albums etc. were auctioned. Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, the Hon. Secretary of our association distributed free of cost, from his own collections, a few maximum cards to the young members who were present.



## South India Philatelists Association, Madras-600 001.

### Membership subscription particulars :

- Rs. 12/- per annum for ordinary member  
(Resident)
- Rs. 7/- " " for non resident  
member
- Rs. 5/- " " for Junior member  
(below 18)
- Rs. 100/- for Life membership

No Admission Fee.



Members who have not renewed their membership are requested to renew their membership at the earliest.

G. Balakrishna Das,  
Hon. Secretary, SIPA.

## TIT BITS

1. *Asia's first stamp*: Appeared in 1857 when the district of Scinde in the Presidency of Bombay (now part of Pakistan) issued curious circular stamps embossed in red paper. The Scinde Dawks are surrounded by mystery. According to the Governor of the district Sir Bartle Frere, they were printed by De la Rue in London, but they are quite unlike anything else ever printed by this Company. Their circular format and method of printing seem to point to local manufacturers, in which case they should be regarded as the first stamps printed in Asia.

2. *Airmail Flight*: The first Government sponsored airmail flight by powered aircraft took place between Allahabad and Naini in India in Feb. 1911. The first such regular service was the 'Coronation Airmail' between London and Windsor in September of that year, when some 130 000 letters and post cards, post marked 'First United Kingdom Aerial Post' were carried.

3. *Camel Postman*: Famous stamp design of the Sudan, introduced with the first definitives in 1898. It was one of the few designs to remain in regular use (with changes in inscription colour, and size) for more than fifty years. The jubilee of the design was marked by a special stamp in 1948 and even in the 1951 series the camel postman motif was retained for the top 50 p. value. It appeared again on the self Government issue of 1954.

4. *Mixed Postage*: Covers franked with stamps of two or more Postal administrations, or countries; or different regions of the same country; or with originating country's postage stamps and with country of destinations' postage 'dues'.

### New Members

1. M. L. Shanmugasundaram.  
No. 10, Shanmugarayan St.,  
Madras-600 021
2. V. Balasubramanian,  
10-A, M. E. S. Road,  
Tambaram East, Madras-600-059
3. T. S. Sundaram,  
Asst. Engineer (H & R W)  
Mech. Circle, Guindy, Madras-600 025
4. K. Muruga Dass,  
18. Thayar Sahib Street,  
IInd Lane, Madras-600 002