



# SIPA

## Bulletin

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Bimonthly

### SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

#### At our Monthly Meetings:

Jan. '88 :

20 members were present Mr. F.P. Seervai, the President presided.

Mr. Seervai called the attention of the members to the TANAPEX Exhibition that was to be held on 11-2-1988. He gave certain guidelines for exhibiting the stamps etc., the usage of Album sheets, write-up etc. He also insisted that the condition of the stamps should be good and that mint and used stamps should not be mounted in the same sheet. A brief and crisp information about structure and plan of the exhibit were some of the other particulars he dealt with.

When one of the members Sri S. V. Pandurangam, raised a question regarding the value of Indian stamps in foreign countries. Shri G. Madan Mohan Das, as an answer expressed his opinion that only after India started issuing

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high denomination stamps, such stamps are gaining popularity. He also explained the efficiency of the courier services and the 'Speed Post' system.

**Ponpex '87** : A Philatelic Exhibition for students, was held at Pondicherry from 26-11-87 to 28-11-88. A special cover with special cancellation was released by Dr. P. Bahadur, director, Jipmer, Pondicherry and presented to His Excellency Shri T. P. Tewary, Lt. Governor of Pondicherry.

Shri S. Ramalingam, Chief Judge, Pondicherry presided the validictory function and Shri M. S. Rangaswami, Postmaster-General, Tamil Nadu circle presented the awards.

We are pleased to inform the members that two of the members from SIPA, Shri G. Madan Mohan Das and Shri N. S. Nahar have acted as members of the jury along with another member and Chairman Shri P. Jayaraman, Director of Postal Services, Madras Region. According to their report the standard of the entire exhibits was uniformly good.

The views Contained in the articles published are the autho.'s own and not necessarily those of the Association.

#### SIPA MEETINGS

**SECOND SUNDAY** of every month - Regular meeting at the Philately Bureau, Anna Road, Post Office.

**THIRD SUNDAY** of every month - Auction meeting at our Library Hall at 6, Nandan Street, Madras-3

(Timings: 10.45 a.m. to 1 p.m.)



**Top prize to Madras School:** According to the information received from our member. Shri K. C. Veeraraghavan the top prize at Ponpex '87 was knocked away by a Madras School.

He also informs of the initiative taken and encouragement given by him to the two schools, S.B.O A. School and Shri Chakra Matriculation School of Annanagar, where he had inaugurated Philatelic clubs in 1985 and 1987 respectively. In fact he feels proud and satisfied that his efforts to popularise and promote philately among school children had not gone to waste.

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**Bulgaria '89:** The World Philatelic Exhibition "Bulgaria '89" will be held under the FIP patronage at the National Palace of Culture, 'Liudmila Jivatova' in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, from May 22-31, 1989. About 1,000 exhibitors will be exhibiting their collections spread over 5,000 frames. Mr. A. R. Singhee; Deepmala, 252 Road No. 18, Jubilee hills, Hyderabad-500 034, has been appointed as the Indian National Commissioner for this exhibition. The interested participants are requested to contact him for further details.

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**VADOPEX '87:** The Baroda Philatelic Society Organised, third District level Philatelic Exhibition, VADOPEX-87 on 31st October and 1st November 1987 at the Municipal Art Galary, Badamdi Baug, Baroda.

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**C.S.I. Rainy Hospital Centenary Celebrations:** A special postal cancellation was issued by the Department of Posts on the occasion of the centenary Celebrations of the C.S.I. Rainy Hospital, Madras on 11th January 1988.

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**BHUTAN STAMP NEWS:** The Department of Posts and Telegraph Services of the Royal Government of Bhutan released a set of

stamps commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of the painter MARC CHAGALL on 17-12-1987 and on 15-2-1988 released another set of stamps commemorating BHUTAN DISNEY CALGARY OLYMPICS.

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## REQUEST TO ALL PHILATELIC ASSOCIATIONS

*Please send in your 'PRESS NOTE', direct to the address of the Hon. Editor, SIPA BULLETIN, to facilitate early publication.*

Hon-Editor.

## SIPA

### Membership Subscription

Annual	— —	Rs. 20.00
Juniors (upto 16 years)		Rs. 10-00
Life	— —	Rs. 250/-
Overseas (Annual)		£ 2 or
		US \$ 4

**No entrance fee**



# UNDESIRABLE ISSUES

By S. P. CHATTERJEA

(This article was originally published in *Signet*-Oct.-Dec. 1987 and is re-published here with the kind consent of the author and we also extend our thanks to *SIGNET*-Editor)

Mr. R. D. Binani, of Calcutta, brought to my notice that it had always been told to the philatelists that they should not include the undesirable issues in their exhibits displayed in the FIP exhibitions. He mentioned that as it is not possible for the philatelists to ascertain the definition of each and every such stamp before acquiring them, P.C.I. should issue a list of such stamps.

With the intention to inform the philatelists and readers of *Signet*, I have made an attempt, through this article, to bring out the various steps taken by the FIP to root out this malaise.

Even on the very founding day of FIP, viz. 18th June 1926, the founding President W. Bigwood announced the five main goals to be pursued vigorously by them. Amongst these five was 'to combat with all its means the unnecessary and harmful stamp issues'. In fact, he stressed: "We regret the increasing and unpleasant tendency of the national postal ministries to issue postage stamps, with or without surcharge, that meet no postal necessity and which have the sole purpose of emptying the purses of philatelists. We note further, that these issues have such limited quantities that no sooner has one reached the postal counter than they are already sold out and they are offered at up to 30 times face value. An agreement between the major dealers and our organization would be absolutely necessary in order to shut out these stamps, which are improperly issued by some post offices, from our collections and catalogues. These administrations

must understand that their countries would be greatly harmed by these unnecessary issues, if philatelists subsequently refuse to collect the stamps of these countries.

While it is desirable to combat those issues which are excessive and harmful to philately, one must first be clear just what this designation encompasses. Differences in opinion always arose, so that no agreement on definition was ever reached. At the 1931 Congress in Paris, the discussions were predominantly over unnecessary and speculative issues. The President, P. J. Maingay, presented the following proposals:

1. The F.I.P. should first clearly define the term "postage stamp" and clearly explain what is to be understood as unnecessary or speculative issues. Then, this determination needs to be published in the world press.
2. The F.I.P. members are to be urged to regularly report unnecessary or speculative issues to the F.I.P. Bureau, with the necessary explanations, so that this can be forwarded to the member federations for publication.
3. The F.I.P. members are to be requested to publish a column titled "A Collection of Undesirable Stamps" in their official society journals.

The F.I.P. should immediately get in contact with the most important catalogue and album publishers to inform them of our views and to



request them to co-operate with us on the same basis.

Following this proposal, Mr. Maingay presented his personal concept regarding the various postal issues, which he defined as follows:

### Postage Stamp

"According to my opinion, a postage stamp is a security label sold at a fixed price, issued by a government for postal use and regularly offered for sale to the public at post offices. Otherwise, a vignette which a government issues for whatever occasion, and which is not offered at the post office, is an unworthy collectible".

### Unnecessary Postage Stamp

"Here we are dealing very clearly with postage stamps which fulfil no postal requirement, and serve the sole purpose of filling the state coffers. It is even worse, when superfluous series with high values are issued."

### Speculative Postage Stamp

"This type of postage stamps deserves our special attention. I consider as speculative postage stamps those which are issued in limited quantities, on the one hand to spur philatelic collecting desires and on the other hand to more rapidly drive up the commercial value."

### Commemorative Issues

"I could have included this category under the unnecessary postage stamps, but I have chosen to deal with them separately, since here we must be more careful with our verdict. Since commemorative issues have become a common practice, I see no drawback in them, as long as they are limited to postally valid denominations for domestic and foreign letters and for printed matter."

## Charity Stamps

"Here we are also really dealing with unnecessary issues. However, since these have also become a common practice, we can hardly raise an objection to them. It has been shown that, for example, the Swiss Pro-Juventute stamps which have been purchased by the public for postal use far surpass the philatelic demand. It seems to me that here as well we should limit our concern to the point only current values be issued and that the surcharges remain within limits, so that the ordinary user is not deterred. Should there issues be valued only for a limited period of time then the unsold stamps must be destroyed, and in no case may they be sold at a reduced price to a group of interested parties as happened in Belgium."

As interesting as the assembly found the proposal and the explanations, they were unable to reach a common decision. The only point accepted was the preparation of a list of unnecessary and speculative issues of all countries.

The thinking at this time was so much on how to stop such undesirable issues that even the Stamps Dealers' Congress at its first meeting in Livorno on 29-30 April 1931 hoped that the Stamp Dealers around the world will unite in an attempt to limit these issues to eliminate this danger to philately. In fact Mr. Th. Champion stopped to catalogue such stamps.

After long years of deliberations, Secretary Goldberg however concluded at the 1935 Congress in Brussels: "The F.I.P. could hardly raise protests against officially issued, postally valid postage stamps. It must limit itself to the superfluity of issues, to superfluous surcharges, and to sales under improper conditions. Collectors should only be given advice: they then have to decide whether they wish to put certain issues in their collections or not." How this advice was in fact followed can be seen in the letter from Mr. Champion (Yvert & Tellier) to the F.I.P. President in 1938: "In spite of all my warnings, the philatelists want to obtain these undesirable issues, which led me to list them



again in my catalogue." A difficult problem which the F.I.P. was never able to solve in a satisfactory manner during the pre-War years.

In the Post-War Congress in Prague in Oct. 1947 this question again came up and it was for the first time decided that the surcharge on postage stamps exceeding 50% of the franking value should be treated as undesirable ones. In the next year a separate Commission was established with the task of reviewing the entire position and compiling a list of all stamps which should be boycotted, in order to exclude them from international exhibitions. Such a list was prepared and distributed to the National Federations on 21-3-1950. The following guidelines were also suggested for unnecessary issues :

- (a) Issues whose quantities are established arbitrarily, i.e., their issue quantity is too low in comparison with other issues ;
- (b) Issues which are only available from the postal administration by special order ;
- (c) Issues which are only on sale at counters during a very short period of time ;
- (d) Issues which are never offered for sale at post office counters ;
- (e) Issues which are given to an individual or to a consortium for sale.

During the period between 1950 and 1953 as many as four circular letters were sent by the President of the Commission to the national federations and also to the Postal Administrations stressing the need for organising Information Centres by the national federations and to feed back the information to the F.I.P. Commission. It was also requested that those stamps not authorised at exhibition also not be allowed at stamp sales conducted by the societies and that they be excluded from new issue services and exchange booklets. Unfortunately there was no interest on the subject at the national federation level and nothing tangible

came out. As such the commission was forced to sharply curtail its activities due to this apathy of F.I.P. member federations. Many took no notice of the lists issued by the Commission and neither banned the exhibition of harmful issues nor forbid them from being offered in their exchange booklets or at sales organised by the federations.

The question was however lingered on and practically this was discussed in every Congress. The Commission Against Issues Harmful to Philately submitted definitions of Harmful, Objectional and Undesirable issues to the Paris Congress in 1964 in which the President of Commission Pierre Seguy mentioned: "We are convinced that if this is supported by the F.I.P., the battle against harmful issues, being carried out with determination and perseverance, will bring the desired results for philately and for all philatelists".

The following definitions were submitted to the Vienna Congress :

### I Harmful Issues

An issue is harmful, if it directly damages the interests of collectors. Such as :

1. Issues, or specific values thereof, which in whole or in large part are sold to selected individuals, who can thus dictate the price.
2. Issues, or specific values thereof, which are not offered freely for sale at post office counters in the land of origin, or are sold under special conditions of distribution.
3. Issues, or specific values thereof, with a surcharge of more than 50% of their face value.
4. Regularly issued series stamps of souvenir sheets, which have been provided with non postal perforations or overprints for financial profit.
5. Special printing of regular issues which are not available at post office counters.

Exceptions : An exception can be made to Point 3 if the issue comes directly following a calamity or a sudden national catastrophe and the surcharge is to provide relief.



## II. Objectionable Issues

An issue is objectionable, if it has costly characteristics. Such as:

1. Issues with perforated and imperforate stamps, series or souvenir sheets of the same face value.

2. Issues with coupled sales (1 souvenir sheets + X sets, or 1 rare stamp + X ordinary stamps).

3. Issues in various colours for the same stamp or the same souvenir sheet.

4. Reprints of an issue or a part thereof in the same or slightly differing form, for financial profit.

## III. Undesirable Issues

Since postage stamps by their nature are receipts for postal service, all those issued are regarded as undesirable which obviously do not conform to this purpose, such as:

1. Excessively long commemorative series
2. Excessively high face value
3. Miniature sheets
4. Issues with a theme foreign to the country of issue.
5. Issues which intentionally are produced in abnormally small quantities.

For the WIPA 65 exhibition, the Austrian federation had 1,000 copies printed of the list of issues harmful to philately, which the F.I.P. had banned from exhibitions. A portion of them was sent to the national federations, and the rest to the A.I.J.P. for distribution to its members.

At the request of Mr Seguy, the organizers of the SIPEX exhibition in Washington agreed also to have a list printed of the harmful issues identified by the F.I.P., and to send it to all exhibitors. This example was also followed by the organizers of AMPHILEX 67. This last list

was issued in three languages: French, German and English.

The Yvert, Michel and Zumstein catalogue publishers met their promises to identify the harmful issues in their catalogues. Also the Leuchtturm album publishers announced their willingness to publicize it.

Since, however, many stamp dealers were of the opinion that the activity of this commission impacted on their business, they brought Mr Seguy to court for material damages. The complaint was rejected, and the court declared that collectors had the right to be warned, even if this opposed the conflicting interests of certain dealers.

In order to counter the increasing quantity of issues of imperforate stamps in conjunction with perforated stamps and souvenir sheets, the 1967 Amsterdam Congress issued the following resolution:

"Imperforate issues which are released together with normal perforated issues are to be considered as harmful, even when the imperforate stamps differ from the normal perforated stamps in colour or face value.

This was an elevation of Point 1 of "objectionable" issues. In order to give the postal administrations, who were to be immediately notified of the decision, time to respond, these "doubled issues" were not automatically placed on the list of non-admissible issues until 1 January 1968.

A period of success began with the year 1968, according to Mr. Seguy. Negotiations with catalogue publishers and journal editors were so far advanced that the F.I.P. could look directly at those few catalogues and journals who failed to identify harmful issues, with a view to excluding them from exhibitions.

It was, however, not so easy for the Commission to update the lists of such issues harmful to philately from amongst the thousands of new issues and distribute the lists to the



national federations. Already in 1969 objections started coming in from various national federations that it was impossible for the national federations to undertake anything on the subject unless the flow of information is maintained. In fact a stage came when the delegates to the 1970 London Congress demanded that the list be completely done away with. Thus the activity of this Commission declined noticeably and gradually the work of the Commission stopped.

Ultimately in the 1972 Brussels Congress, the Working Committee was entrusted to work out new directives for this burning problem. In 1973 the working Committee first established the following characteristics of issues which were not admissible at philatelic exhibitions :

- 1) Imperforate issues which are offered concurrently with perforated issues ;
- 2) Special printings and reprints ;
- 3) Private perforations and overprintings ;
- 4) Issues which are turned over to a private commercial organization for sale ;
- 5) Issues with too high a surcharge ;
- 6) Issues with too low a printing quantity .

The question was discussed in the 1974 Stockholm Congress along with the draft regulations which provided for the maintenance of the list of harmful issues. The majority of delegates, however, preferred the development of clear principles concerning harmful issues rather than the lists since the compilation of the lists caused too much complications

In subsequent Congress the problem was further discussed and it was felt that the main question was to persuade the issuing countries to adopt a series stamp issuing policy and to make them convinced that issues which run contrary to FIP principles will not be admitted to the exhibitions. After much deliberation the President Leon Putz addressed the following letter to all the Postal Administrations mentioning the four criteria of postage stamps which are to be rejected by exhibitions patronised by

FIP and requesting them to adopt a well thought out policy in consonance with the above criteria :

“Dear Director :

Allow me to occupy you with a problem which in its scope affects the interests of the postal administrations to the same extent as it does the interests of stamp collectors. This is the question of the so-called ‘undesirable issues’. The Congress of the F.I.P. (International Philatelic Federation) has passed the following resolution :

The following postage stamps are to be rejected by exhibitions under F.I.P. patronage :

1) Postage stamps which were not placed in circulation by means of open sale at the great majority of postal counters and not sold at face value ;

2) Postage stamps whose sale, to an overwhelming degree, is undertaken through commercial agents who are not officials of the issuing country ;

3) Postage stamps which are offered to the public in the manner of concurrent issues in the form of stamps, souvenir sheets or pages, perforated or imperforate, in part with limited issue quantities, even if there are differences in colour ;

4) Postage stamps which are issued with surcharge that surpass 50% of face value. An exception is made for amounts which do not exceed the normal postage for a domestic letter, under the condition that the surcharge does not exceed the face value.

In consideration of the synthesis of the lectures presented at the meeting of the Postal Council of the Universal Postal Union in 1971, we believe that the application of the above measures coincides with your own point of view. We remain convinced that the interests of philately can in no way run counter to the interests of a well thought out issuing policy on the part of the postal administrations.



In the hope that our points of view may prove to our mutual advantage to be identical, we request you advise us of your position in this regard."

Many postal Administrations agreed with the FIP criteria and many did not reply. The FIP Bureau also intended to recommend to one of the next Congresses that all stamps from whose postal administrations which rejected the criteria or failed to reply would be excluded from FIP international Exhibitions but this intention was somehow dropped.

The real crux is that although FIP deplors such issues it can only appeal to the Postal Administrations that they should not bring out such undesirable issues but cannot dictate to them. They can only disallow such undesirable and harmful issues in the exhibitions patronised by FIP. In this respect also it tried its best during the 60 long years to give a definite direction to the exhibitors but was not much successful due to the various problems inherited in the issue.

For the last few years, FIP, however, devoted itself to evolving General and Special Regulations for the evaluation of competitive exhibits and has defined in article 3 of GREV about the principles of exhibit composition, the main emphasis of which is that an exhibit shall consist solely of appropriate philatelic materials. That is materials which for the purposes of transmitting mail or other postal communications, has been issued, intended for issue, used or treated as valid for postage by Governmental, local or private postal agencies or by other duly commissioned or empowered authorities. These FIP Regulations and Special Regulations for the evaluation of exhibits at the FIP exhibitions have already been published in the earlier issues of Signet.

Taking all these into account, the exhibitors will do well to avoid inclusion of such items which do not fall under the appropriate philatelic items and give importance and preference generally to

(1) Normal issues instead of additional imperforate parallel issues of stamps and

Souvenir sheets or special printing and reprintings brought out for financial profit;

(2) Issues which have a direct relation to the Country of Origin on Political, historical, cultural, economic or other spheres instead of speculative issues which are brought out on profit motive to exploit the collectors;

(3) Genuinely cancelled stamps instead of cancelled to order stamps;

(4) Genuinely serviced materials through posts instead of more souvenir documents or items prepared to suit collectors like decorated First Day Covers, Maximum Cards etc.;

(5) Officially serviced items with correct postage as opposed to cancellations to order often with underpaid or overpaid postage or cancellations on blank without any postage (exception those of exempted categories);

(6) Items with individual clear addresses instead of covers and cards received as a result of subscription;

(7) Meter frankings with appropriate postage instead of to the '000' meter cancellations.

I am sure the exhibitors will take the full advantage from this comprehensive record about the Harmful, Objectionable, and Undesirable issues to guard themselves while building their collections for exhibitions.

- References:
1. Origin and Evolution of the International Federation of Philately by Leon Putz.
  2. FIP Information and Flash.
  3. FIP Regulation for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions.
  4. Guidelines to the above General & Special Regulations approved or discussed in the 56th FIP Congress at Copenhagen.



# World of Music and Philately

MUSIC THE MOTHER TONGUE OF IMMORTALS in other words MORTAL MEN AND IMMORTAL MELODIES. There is no living person on the world who does not like Music, may be of different kind either classical or semi classical or film songs or Western tunes. But some one is craze of some kind of music.

In one respect Music and Philately are same. The both are like a big ocean and we the stamp collectors can not catch each and every stamp but catch some of gems out of it and present the same to the viewers. Like wise music is a very vast subject and no one can master over it.

No one knows when music came to the world but our ancient Vedas says it was from the 'NABHI' of Lord Maha Vishnu with the sound 'OM' or 'OMKARA' when the creature of this world Brahma was born. The Hindu scriptures proclaim that sound engulfed the whole of the cosmos as the SHABDA BRAHAMAN the primordeal sound principle before the universe took its manifest from the Murtha Rupa. All manifestation emerge out of the Shabd Brahma which is also called pranava or 'OM' the primordeal sound. OM has a whole spectrum of human emotions a whole range of form and substance. So the music came from "OM KARA PRAVAVA NADHODHBHAVA SRUTHI LAYA SWARA SANKETIKAM".

After a brief introduction on music I think it is necessary to give you an idea of how I have classified my exhibit.

The first sheet being an introduction on the subject I have classified the rest as follows :

**I. The Indian Music :** The main classification under this are :

- (a) Composers,
- (b) Saints and poets,
- (c) Bhakthi movement,
- (d) The Carnatic musical Trinity,
- (e) Music in Nationalism.

**II. The Western Side, Few Composers and musicians of west.**

**III. Musical Instruments :** (i) Wind Instruments, (ii) Stringed Instruments, (iii) Base Instruments.

**IV. The cultural aspects of Music :** The Dance, Ballets, etc.

In India we have two major classification in music.

1. Carnatic Music (South Indian Music)
2. Hindustani Music (North Indian Music)

Carnatic music is also spelt as 'Karnatak' music which is confused as Karnataka Music which is basically wrong. "Carna" in Sanskrit means the EARS, Athati means pleasant. Both put together means the music which is pleasant to ears is Carnata/Carnatic.

Today our Indian music is considered as one of the best Music in the world. It may be recalled that our ancient musician Tansen was able to light the lamps with his music by singing a particular raga called 'Deepak rag' and he was able to get the rains by the ra-ga 'Megha-Malhar'.

Music has many things to do apart from the entertainment point of view. As started earlier no one can measure the depth of music, it is so vast that one can never reach its end. So instead of going much deep into it let us come to the main point **WORLD OF MUSIC AND PHILATELY.**

I was thinking very deep as to how to start my exhibit. Naturally vocal being the first music I was to make it from composers. Then after a deep study of stamps issued I decided to start the same with stamp of Ravana.

—(To be continued next issue)