



SIPA

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At our Monthly Meetings :

July '88 : 21 Members were present. President Sri F. P. Seervai presided. After the usual exchange of talks between the members the meeting came to order.

Sri A. Ravooof gave a fine display with authoritative notifications on "Licensed Postal Agents". He went into the details about the grant of Licences of the Postal Agencies in Urban areas, the appointment of LPAS in rural areas, about the procedures for the despatch of Registered letters, and about study and review of local experience to make it more effective. (A separate article on this subject is expected from Sri A. Ravooof for publication in this bulletin-Hon. Editor.)

Sri A. Ravooof then displayed a few Rubber stamp of LPAS affixed on covers.

Sri R. Chittibabu came forward with his fine well arranged display of Album sheets of stamps overprinted and or printed for war

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effort and showed how the 26 colonies of the Britain had all issued stamps on war fund during I World war and also during II World war. This was very well received by the members present and it goes to show how a good collection can be built on a particular side line of Philately-War effort and stamps.

Sri G. Madan Mohan Das gave for the information of the members the news about the forthcoming commemorative stamps, stationery, definitives also about Karapex-88 to be held at Bangalore in 18/23 August.

We are thankful to Sri N. Narayanan for distributing Newzealand, new issue pamphlets almost regularly.

August '88 : 18 Members were present. Sri G. Madan Mohan Das, the newly elected President, called the meeting to order after the usual exchange of news amongst the members. Minutes of the last monthly meeting was read and adopted.

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The views Contained in the articles published are the author'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.)

Taking Indian Philately Forward

— VISPI S. DASTUR

The prophets of doom seem to be once again at work and appear to be sounding the death knell of Indian philately. These days we hear that the advent of T.V. and video in the last few years is killing the hobby. T.V. and video have made an onslaught on leisure time all over the world. In India T.V. has spread its tentacles over all the big cities and almost the whole of the country and there is also a boom in video. One effect of this is that in the big cities one sees bookshops closing down and book circulating libraries being converted into video libraries. In the last few years we have seen the advent of many serials which have kept the old and the young glued to the idiot box leaving very little time for wholesome, constructive and educational hobbies like stamp collecting.

Some time back, in all old foreign philatelic journal, we read of similar prophecies of doom in the early nineteen thirties at the advent of the "talking" movies and the radio. But luckily for us, these prophecies were not fulfilled and stamp collecting has not only survived in the last half century but has also prospered; it has become a systematic study of not only the postage stamp but also of postal stationery and postal history.

So, one need not be dejected about the very survival of the hobby. In our view this interesting and illuminating hobby will continue to attract persons of all ages. One can't help wondering whether philately is such a tender and delicate hobby that it must be constantly watered and fertilised; we are sure that it can and does offer plenty of fascination to those who have a bent for it. We reiterate our firm belief that postage stamps will continue to exercise their peculiar charm on certain men, women and children for many generations to come. The recent auction realisations also prove the skeptics wrong.

However, one should not be complacent. In the years to come a concerted effort must be made by all concerned with the hobby to

promote it. There is no sense in saying that promotion of the hobby should be done exclusively by the Department of Posts as it benefits the most from the sale of stamps to the philatelists. Similarly, one cannot shelve one's responsibility by saying that the apex body of philatelists in India, the Philatelic Congress of India should be held solely responsible for the slow progress in this connection.

In our opinion, the promotion and survival of the hobby requires the active cooperation of the Department of Posts which issues the postage stamps in the country, the P.C.I., the leading All-India Philatelic Societies, the local philatelic clubs, the philatelic journals, the stamp dealers and each and every stamp collector. The Department of Posts with its unique position and the funds at its disposal and as one of the main beneficiaries of the hobby must ponder over the matter and see how it can promote the hobby in the country. Here are some points which could be considered by the Department and all concerned:

1. India is a poor country and we believe, has problems which need greater priorities than stamp collecting. However, like a prudent businessman the Department should set aside 10 to 15% of its philatelic revenue for the promotion of the hobby.

2. The Department of Posts has been holding exhibitions at State, National and International levels; pray, why has it discontinued the District level exhibitions which had been started around 1976? These were exhibitions which took the hobby to the grassroots and spread the message of philately amongst the masses in various small towns all over the country. We would strongly urge the Department to apply its mind to this matter and once again hold these District level exhibitions throughout the country;

3. A Philatelic Trust or Foundation could be created on lines similar to the one in U.K.

and other philatelically advanced countries but taking into consideration the Indian conditions.

4. The formation and expansion of Stamp Clubs in schools all over the country should be encouraged by the Department as well as the P.C.I.

5. The Department could hold small exclusive inter-school exhibitions at the city, district, state and national levels.

6. Philatelic kits and booklets could be supplied free or at subsidised rates to the clubs and societies by the Department out of its philatelic income.

7. A lesser number of stamps, especially personality stamps would be welcomed by the collectors; the Department should not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

8. Better and more attractive designs are absolutely essential if Indian stamps are to be popular both in India and abroad.

9. Wide advance publicity in India and abroad through philatelic journals, the lay press, radio and T.V. is required. You will be surprised to learn that an eminent Indian stamp journal does not receive any photographs or literature from the Postal Department of its own country-even belatedly, whereas, it is literally bombarded with photos, literature etc., from countries all over the world.

10. More stamps on the flora, fauna, culture festivals, art, architecture and other themes would not only give an idea of India's heritage to Indians and foreigners but also attract new collectors to the hobby.

11. Regular use by the Post Office in the country, of postal slogan cancellations propagating the hobby of stamp collecting such as "Collect Indian Stamps", "Stamp Collecting Is Fun" etc., in English, Hindi and regional languages could also help.

12. Competitions for stamp designing by outside artists, children etc., would create enthusiasm and interest in stamps.

13. Philatelic workshops in schools and colleges could be regularly held in addition to those held at Exhibitions.

14. If we cannot beat the T.V. boom we should join it by having stamp programmes, displayed talks, stamp news, etc., on T.V. so as to attract more beginners towards this informative hobby.

15. Holding of stamp release functions at various places would also generate awareness of stamp.

16. Displaying the more attractive multi-coloured Indian stamps at airports, railway stations, post offices, major hotels etc., will also attract attention to Indian stamps.

17. The museums in the various towns could have a Stamps and Postal History Section.

18. Financial help to the societies and journals by way of advertisement or other help by the Department from its philatelic income would also help them in their efforts to promote the hobby.

19. The Department and the P.C.I. should endeavour to have the import restrictions on stamps and philatelic accessories, etc., removed partially, if not completely so that each genuine collector gets atleast some amount of foreign exchange for importing these items.

20. Films on stamp collecting and Indian stamps could be shown in theatres all over India through the Films Division, etc.

21. Why not a properly produced video film on stamp collecting? This should be a professional effort with the help of senior philatelists and should cover all aspects of the hobby and not one's pet subject only. Whatever happened to the video film taken at Inpex-86, Jaipur?

22. Why can't we, in order to draw attention to the hobby, have a National Stamp Day or Stamp Week as is being done in many countries like Canada, England, Australia, etc.

23. In these days of escalating postal rates we find postal stationery with the same design

being continued for years with only the value being changed; we could have a change in designs of post cards, envelopes etc. at regular intervals.

24. We could consider issuing commemorative postal stationery on some special important occasions.

The aerogramme, which is India's ambassador to foreign countries, could be made more attractive and could depict our tourist attractions, flora, fauna, achievements, etc. These steps would not only be welcomed by postal stationery collectors but also attract attention to the country.

25. We could consider bringing out special stamp booklets with advertisements which could also earn revenue for the Department.

26. Some years back the Department had brought out New Year Greeting Cards with a stamp design on the cover and the actual stamp inside. We suggest that such New Year cards be brought out for sale to collectors and others by early August of each year so that they can be used on the Parsee, Hindu, Muslim, Christian etc.. New Years. Reasonably priced, they could be brought by collectors and others and would propagate Indian stamps in India and abroad.

27. Some years back, the Post Master Generals used to hold monthly / bimonthly meetings with the local philatelists. The Department could consider resuming these meetings which would be in the nature of feed-back to the Department.

28. The Department could consider issuing a stamp on stamp collecting as has been done by many countries including Sweden, U.S.A., U.N.

Lack of finance and personnel are reasons often given by the Department for the short-falls, but, in view of its income from philately, and in its own interest it should seriously consider implementing the various suggestions.

The philatelist members of the Philatelic Advisory Committee should endeavour to do their best and constant repetition by philatelists may be necessary to achieve our goals.

The All India Societies and the local stamp clubs could help the Department of Posts and the P.C.I in all their laudable undertakings in connection with the promotion of the hobby. The philatelic journals could carry simple articles for the newcomers and also they could be kept in school and college libraries, clubs, at philatelic bureaux, etc.

Without our dealer friends the very survival of the hobby would be jeopardised. Similarly, the very livelihood and survival of our dealer friends is dependent on the hobby. They are in direct contact with the collector as well as the prospective collector. By being a friend and guide to the collector, especially the beginners, by their fair dealings, by selling stamps which are authentically issued by proper stamp issuing countries, by supporting the societies and the journals they can do much to ensure the survival and progress of this hobby which we all love so much and which we feel is to their own advantage. We have found memories of some dear dealer friends who have, over the years, helped, inspired, and guided us in our philatelic endeavours. Our dealer friends should keep before their mind's eye the long term interests of the hobby and their own long term prospects and not look for short term quick unethical gains as is being done by some all over the world.

They could ensure that fakes and forgeries do not pass through their hands. Forgeries were responsible for the fall, some time back, in the interest in Indian States stamps and covers. The same is likely to happen to the interest of collectors in Indian Postal History if the recent spate of forgeries of cancellations, censor markings, railway, postage due, instructional and other postal markings is not stopped at the earliest.

Some of our readers may feel that the above suggestions given by us are the oft repeated ones but we strongly feel that one must knock at the door continuously if one wants to achieve the goal.

Remember that the water jar becomes full in the course of time by the constant dripping

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Guidelines for judging collections of Young Philatelists

Preliminary Remarks :

Collecting stamps is a leisure time activity. Each collection is marked by the personality of its young philatelist. This individuality should be maintained within the established rules.

These directives should be viewed as guidelines and are intended to help the exhibitor and the jurors as well.

Criteria :

We consider four criteria in judging exhibits :

1. Development
2. Knowledge
3. Materials
4. Impressions

These general criteria are valid for all types of collections.

The "knowledge" criteria applies differently to each type of collection :

- * for traditional collections :
philatelic knowledge
- * for thematic collections :
subject knowledge
- * for postal history collections :
postal history knowledge

1. DEVELOPMENT :

This criteria specifically apply :

1.1 *Structure :*

A logical structure is expected within the collection. A statement of intent is expected to be set forth in a plan at the beginning of the exhibit. A table of contents is not sufficient. The total concept should be presented. The age group of the exhibitor affects how stringently the plan element is evaluated.

1.2 *Explanations :*

It is expected that the text should relate directly to the theme or story line of the exhibit. Explanations should apply to the aspect of philately chosen. Text should not be too extensive.

1.3 *Subject :*

The subject of the collection should be chosen in such a way that the collection shows a comprehensive selection of items as well as the necessary specialization for the subject. Individuality of theme is desirable and should be reflected in the collection.

1.4 *Overview :*

The exhibitor is expected to show the level of development and degree of difficulty which is appropriate for his age group. The respective degree of development of the collection as well as the development of the plan will be evaluated.

A collection is rarely exhibited in its entirety; a selection must always be made. An intelligent selection shows the contents of the collection and its scope.

1.5 *Specialization :*

It is expected that the exhibitor, in accordance with his age group, covers a certain area of specialization. This may be in regard to an issue, a subject or a certain domain of philately.

1.6 *Correct classification of materials :*

The exhibitor is expected to classify the material used correctly. This classification should emphasize the story line and directly improve the progression of the plan.

2. KNOWLEDGE :

A. For collectors of traditional philately
(by country)

2.1 *Basic philatelic knowledge :*

2.2 *Special philatelic knowledge—stamps :*

Both basic and specialized philatelic knowledge should be shown by the collector, with reference to his age. This may be exhibited through the selection of a balanced group of philatelic options within the area of philately chosen

2.3 *Special philatelic knowledge—covers :*

It is expected that the exhibitor should be able to recognize the greater importance of some

items in relation to others and that he be discriminating in the selection of those items to be exhibited.

2.4 *Research and studies*

It is expected that the exhibitor makes proper use of applicable literature and displays the results of his studies in the collection.

B. For topical and thematic collections.

2.1 *Philatelic knowledge*

2.2 *Thematic knowledge*

It is expected that the exhibitor clearly demonstrate necessary basic thematic subject knowledge. It is also desirable that specialized knowledge be shown in relation to his age.

2.3 *Cancellation in relation to subject*

2.4 *Covers in relation to subject*

Cancellations and covers in relation to the subject are essential aspects of the exhibit. The exhibitor's age will always be taken into consideration.

2.5 *Thematic relativity of stamp, cancellation and cover.*

As an exhibitor ages, more attention should be paid to the direct correlation of the stamp, cancellation and cover to show a thematic relationship.

3. MATERIAL :

3.1 *Relation of stamps and covers*

The balance of stamps and covers is weighed. It is important to consider whether the best possible number of items is being exhibited. This does not mean the greatest number possible.

3.2 *Condition of stamps*

3.3 *Condition of covers*

Stamps and covers should be in the best possible condition. It is expected that the exhibitor has taken the necessary steps to show his material in its most favourable way. Stamps and covers must not be totally injured.

Propagation of Philately in Schools.

Sri K. C. Veeraraghavan, Life Member, South India Philatelists Association, on his own interest has taken up the initiative to arrange Philatelic lectures at a number of schools. He hopes to cover 52 schools in one year. So far from 23-6-88 he has inaugurated Philatelic Clubs and given Philatelic lectures with displays in atleast eight schools. The schools covered so far by him are :

1. S. B. O. A. School and Junior College, Annanagar, Madras-101;
2. St. Mary's Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School, Madras-1;
3. S. B. O. A. Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Madras-101;
4. St. John's Junior Secondary School, R. A. Puram, Madras-28.
5. Ganapathy Girls High School, Gopalapuram, Madras-86;
6. Hindu High School, Triplicane, Madras-5.
7. Saraswathi Vidhyalaya Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam, Madras-26. and
8. National English Higher Secondary School, Gopalapuram, Madras-86.

Totally about 3,000 students who were interested in this hobby and a number of teachers have benefitted through his lectures.

The sincere single handed effort of Sri K. C. Veeraraghavan in carrying out, one of the aims of the South India Philatelists' Association, to propagate Philately in schools, was well appreciated in the last meeting of the Works Committee. Such efforts by him as well as by other members in future will also be duly published in this bulletin.

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Taking Indian Philately Forward....

of drops of water. Perseverance gains its mead and patience wins the race.

The American President John Kennedy has said "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country". Let us think in a positive way and also act accordingly; each one of us philatelists must do some serious introspection and see what he as a collector, can do for the promotion of the hobby. Let him give something to that hobby from which he has derived so much pleasure and learning. He could give talks on stamp collecting in schools, colleges, Rotary, Lions, etc., meetings. Each collector can also, personally, in his own small way promote the hobby on a person to person basis by spreading the message of philately. Let us remember the ancient Indian 'Guru-Shishya' way of individual teaching and let "EACH ONE TEACH ONE" so that Indian Philately not only survives but also prospers in the years to come.

Friends, these are a few thoughts we share with you; your comments and views on this significant task of taking Indian philately forward are welcomed.

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At our Monthly Meetings ...

Sri G. Venkateswaralu, Vice-Chairman, Botswana, Philatelic Society and his wife Smt. A. Venkateswaralu, Lecturer, University of Botswana introduced themselves and narrated how they went to Botswana in Southern Africa (formerly Bechunaland Protectorate), the former on Government assignment and retired recently.

Sri F. P. Seervai gave a talk on full sheet overprinted with 3 pies, and also about what is meant by GUTTER - space left between stamps, Margins with printed words, about the value of the sheet, then about winged margins and also showed a unique sheet with 4 holes, Gutter and inscription of 8a carmine.

Sri D. H. Rao showed and put up for display stamps on ships; Ships on currency notes and also on coins and said what a pleasurable hobby is stamp collecting.

Then Sri K. C. Veeraraghavan said that the SIPA Bulletin news on TANAPEX is belated it ought to have highlighted about the part played by SIPA members and how the Stal-warts Sri F. P. Seervai; Sri D. H. Rao and himself who have conducted a workshop on Philately for school children (Please see elsewhere in this bulletin the further activities of Sri K. C. Veeraraghavan).