



SIPA

Bulletin

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SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

(Founded 1956)

(Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India)

At Our Monthly Meetings :

October 1988 : 18 Members were present.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries, Vice-President Sri D. H. Rao called the meeting to order since the President was out of station.

Sri M. T. Karunakaran, our Hon. Editor gave a detailed talk about preparation and exhibiting of stamps. He explained in detail as to what to collect and how to collect and in fact went into all the aspects of philately. He also furnished a list of topics or themes in alphabetical order which covered almost all the subjects.

Sri F. D. Seervai exhibited the stamps that were issued after the last meeting. He also exhibited the New Stainless steel Coins of India (ie. 50 p, 25 p and 10 p) and explained the salient features of the coins, like its dimensions, weights etc.,

Sri Sankaranarayanan read an article from the Illustrated London News, November 13, 1965, about the keen interest shown by King George V and how he had laid foundation of Royal Philatelic Collection etc.

All communications relating to the Bulletin may please be addressed to Mr. M. T. Karunakaran, Hony. Editor, 'SIPA Bulletin' 3, III Cross Street, Jayanagar, Tambaram Sanatorium, Madras.600 047.

Sri G. Balakrishna Das showed some of the Insurance Policies issued by Lloyds during the early years of 1900s and how he got those things from Karaikudi and other places.

We are thankful to Sri N. Narayanan for the Newzealand new issue pamphlets which were distributed to the members present.

Wish you a happy & prosperous

New Year and Pongal

November, 1988 : 15 Members were present.

After the usual exchange of pleasantries to meeting was called to order. Sri G. Madan Mohan Das gave a talk on 'Philately and Politics in Modern Burma. He stated that since 1948 Burma issued only six series of definitives and very limited number of commemoratives. 61 official stamps and 120 commemoratives only were issued. Burma stamps were printed in Pakistan, Japan & Leipzig. It became illegal to export envelopes used on Government Service. He informed

(Contd on page 6)

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, Nannian Street, Madras-3

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

FIP Postal Stationery Commission Guidelines

Introduction :

These Guidelines are issued by the FIP Postal Stationery Commission to further explain the Special Regulations for the Evaluation of Postal Stationery Exhibits (SREV) which were approved by the 1985 FIP Congress in Rome. They are intended to provide general guidance regarding :

- A. The definition and nature of postal stationery.
- B. The principles of exhibit composition; and
- C. The judging of exhibits of postal stationery.

and should be read in conjunction with both the Special Regulations referred to above and the General Regulations for the Evaluation of Competitive Exhibits at FIP Exhibitions (GREV).

Whilst the Commission was unanimous in recognising that any collector is perfectly free to build and develop a collection any way he or she considers appropriate, the Commission felt that it had a duty to inform and guide in relation to the collection of postal stationery so that the true nature and purpose of the various classes of material commonly grouped under this heading can be properly appreciated by all those who have an interest, to this end, an attempt has been made to produce a generally acceptable definition of postal stationery with suitable qualifications covering associated material.

A. Definition and Nature of Postal Stationery.

(1) A generally accepted traditional definition of postal stationery can be stated as follows :

Postal Stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postal or related service has been prepaid

N.B. Whilst traditionally the presence of a printed stamp impression has been fundamental to an item being generally accepted within the definition of postal stationery (vide SREV Article 2), a number of countries issued so-called "Formula" items which were sold to the public bearing adhesive stamps, prior to the issue of postal stationery items with impressed stamps. More recently a growing number of Postal Administrations have introduced postal stationery which, while sold to the public at a specific price, merely indicates that a particular service / postage rate has been prepaid without any indication of value-termed "non value indicator" (NVI). Such material would of course be appropriately included in collections and exhibits of postal stationery. The position regarding items which are similar or identical in format to normal postal stationery but which do not bear either a stamp impression or an indication of value or service is more open to debate, and at the present time, exhibits consisting entirely of such unstamped items are probably best shown out of competition in FIP International Exhibition. The situation is however a developing one and the Commission may well wish to produce further guidance on this aspect in due course.

(2) The physical form of the paper or card on which the stamp etc., has been printed depends upon the specific purpose for which a particular item of postal stationery is intended. The earliest stamped items of postal stationery were usually letter sheets termed covers) and envelopes. The other forms of postal stationery commonly include postcards, wrappers (newspaper band), registration envelopes, certificates of posting, letter cards and air letter sheets (aerograms), but other types of documents bearing impressions of postage stamp designs have been produced by a number of countries.

Other categories of stamps stationery which are designed to prepay related but strictly non-postal purposes and which are commonly included in postal stationery

collections are telegraph forms and postal orders.

N.B. In some cases the imprinted stamps found on telegraph forms are actually inscribed "POSTAGE" and were accepted as postage stamps when detached from their original form.

(3) Postal Stationery can be grouped into the following classes according to the manner of its availability and usage :

- a) **POST OFFICE ISSUES :** Stamped stationery prepared to the specification of and issued by Postal Administrations for public use. It is important to distinguish unofficial private modifications of normal Post Office issues made for philatelic purposes which are often termed "REPIQUAGES" ;
- b) **OFFICIAL SERVICE ISSUES :** Stamped stationery produced for the use of Government Departments only. Imprinted stamps may be similar to those found on Post Office issues or of a special design. Alternatively, Post Office issues may be adapted for Official Service by over printing, etc. ;
- c) **FORCES (MILITARY) ISSUES :** Stamped stationery produced for the use of members of the armed forces. Imprinted stamps may be similar to those found on Post Office issues or of special design ;
- d) **STAMPED TO ORDER (PRIVATE) ISSUES**
Stamped stationery bearing stamps of Post Office design applied with Postal Administration approval and within specified regulations to the order of private individuals or organisations. Imprinted stamps may cover a wider range of denominations and hence designs to those found on Post Office issues.

N.B. It is important to distinguish within the stamped to order class between those items which were produced for genuine postal usage and those produced for philatelic purposes ;

- e) **LOCAL POST ISSUES :** Stamped stationery produced by private postal agencies

with varying degrees of Postal Administration recognition or support.

It is also possible to classify postal stationery according to the type of postal or associated service for which it is intended. Examples of such services include the following :

- f) **POSTAGE :** Surface / air mail-local, inland foreign-letters, post cards, parcels, newspapers, etc ;
- g) **REGISTRATION :** Inland, foreign ;
- h) **TELEGRAPH :** Inland, foreign, etc ;
- i) **RECEIPT :** Receipt of posting - letters, parcels ;
- j) **MISCELLANEOUS FEES ETC. :** Postal orders, money orders, other documents bearing impressions of stamp designs, etc.

B. Principles of Exhibit Composition

An exhibit of postal stationery should comprise a logical and coherent assembly of unused and/or used items of postal stationery as defined by the guidelines produced by the FIP Postal Stationery Commission to illustrate one or more of the categories set out below. The plan and/or concept of the exhibit should be set out on an introductory sheet (see GREV Article 3.3).

- a) The issues of a particular country or associated group ;
- b) The issues of a particular chronological period ;
- c) The issues of a particular class of postal stationery [see section A (3)(a)-(e)] ;
- d) The issues of a particular type of postal or associated service [see section A(3)(f)-(j)] ;
- e) The issues relating to a particular physical form of the paper or card [see section A(2) above].

Postal stationery exhibits should normally be of entire items. Where certain items are very rare in entire form or are only known to exist in cutdown (cut-square) form they would be acceptable as part of an exhibit, as would a study for example of variations in the

stamp dies used or those with rare cancellations etc. The use of postal stationery stamps as adhesives would also properly form part of an exhibit of postal stationery.

As with adhesive stamp exhibits, items of official proof or essay status or overprinted SPECIMEN or CANCELLED etc., would also properly form part of an exhibit of postal stationery.

C. Judging of Exhibits

In agreement with Articles 4.3 and 4.10 of the General Regulations or the FIP for Exhibitions (GREX), General World and International Exhibitions should provide for a specific Postal Stationery Class to be exhibited as an entity in one part or room of the exhibition.

In other exhibitions where no separate class has been designated it is desirable that postal stationery exhibits be grouped geographically within the Traditional Philately Class except for air mail items which may be more appropriately exhibited within the Aerophilatelic Class.

In judging a postal stationery exhibit the jury will use the following general criteria (see GREV Article 4.2) :

- a) Treatment of the Exhibit-see GREV Article 4.3 ;
- b) Importance of the Exhibit-see GREV Article 4.4 ;
- c) Knowledge and Research-see GREV Article 4.5 ;
- d) Condition and Rarity-see GREV Article 4.6
- e) Presentation-see GREV Article 4.7,

Exhibitors should be aware of the need to consider carefully the various aspects which combine together to maximise the award an exhibit can attract. Some indications are given below of the basic elements underlying each individual criterion.

a) TREATMENT OF THE EXHIBIT

Degree of advancement, originality, completeness of exhibit: Does the exhibit

show the greatest degree of advancement in terms of the material included ? Is the approach orthodox, or has an unusual or original interpretation been used ? How complete is the treatment of the subject chosen ? Has the subject been chosen to enable a properly balanced exhibit to be shown in the space available ? Does the material exhibited properly correspond with the title and description of the exhibit ?

b) IMPORTANCE

The "importance" of an exhibit is determined by both the significance of the actual exhibit in relation to the subject chosen and the overall significance of that subject to the field of Postal Stationery in general.

c) KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

The exhibit should demonstrate a full and accurate appreciation of the subject chosen, and a detailed study of existing information. The jury should take account of personal research by the exhibitor (see GREV Article 4.5).

d) CONDITION AND RARITY

The items shown should be in the best possible condition. The jury should take account of any really exceptionally fine or rare items present and whether all the accepted rarities in the chosen subject are included.

N.B. Unless a postal stationery item is of extreme rarity, is unknown as entire, or the exhibit is primarily concerned with variations in the stamp impression only, it is desirable that it be shown in the form of entires. Commercial examples of privately stamped items are to be preferred to philatelically inspired ones.

e) PRESENTATION

The write-up must be clear, concise and relevant to the material shown and to the subject chosen for the exhibit. The method of presentation should show the material to the best effect and in a balanced way. With entires it is important to avoid unduly uniform arrangements. (Contd. on page...6)

N.B. No advantage or disadvantage shall apply as to whether the text is handwritten, typewritten or printed. Brightly coloured inks and coloured album pages should be avoided (see GREV Article 4.7).

Relative Terms of Evaluation

Postal Stationery exhibits will be judged by approved specialists in this field and in accordance with GREX Section V Articles 31-47 see GREV Article 5.1.

For postal stationery exhibits the following relative terms are presented to lead the jury to a balanced evaluation - see GREV Article 5.2 :

1) Treatment and Importance of the Exhibit	35
2) Knowledge and Research	35
3) Condition and Rarity	25
4) Presentation	5
	100

Concluding Provision

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

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At our Monthly Meetings....

(Contd. from page 1)

that less and less information about new issues was given and more and more aspects of the operation of the Post Office came to be treated as state secrets. Sri Madhan Mohan Das has also outlined the history of Philately in Burma for the benefit of the members.

Sri S. Ramanujam who has exhibited the covers issued by Thirupex, held at Thirupur, informed the members about the functioning of world wild life organisation at Madras and requested the members interested, to contact him for further details.

PROPAGATION OF PHILATELY IN SCHOOLS

We are glad to note that our Life Member Sri K. C. Veeraraghavan is carrying on with our programme of Propagation of Philately in Schools. Up to the first week of December he has covered another 14 schools taking his tally to 28.

The schools covered by him other than those mentioned earlier are detailed below :

15. Kesari Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 004.
16. Rosary Matriculation School, Madras-600 004.
17. Good Shepered Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 006.
18. Kola Saraswathi Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 010.
19. Anjukam Higher Secondary School, Madras 600 033.
20. Kesari Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 017.
21. St. Joseph's Boys Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 007.
22. St. Raphael Girls' Higher Secondary School, Madras-60 004.
23. Baine Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 040.
24. N. K. T. Boys Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 005.
25. Muslim Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 005.
26. Guntur Subbiah Pillai Girls' Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 007.
27. Oxford English School, Madras-600017
28. C L. R. I. Kendriya Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School, Madras-600 020.

How do Stamps gain Value

If you buy a stamp across the post office counter, you pay the amount printed on it. Thousands of collectors and dealers do the same. But when that stamp is withdrawn from sale, newcomers to stamp collecting will also continue to want copies, and will be prepared to pay more for them. Dealers will raise their selling price and so, if you decide to sell your copy, you can expect to receive more money for it than you paid. Used stamps gain value for the same reason. If a country prints fifty million of one particular stamp, perhaps five million are bought by collectors and remain unused. Of the rest, forty million are used and thrown away. Of the five million used copies which reach the hands of dealers and collectors some are damaged every year by careless handling, but many new collectors join in the market for those that remain. Once again, then, demand forces up the price.

Switzerland - France Joint Stamp Issue

In the first-time venture the Swiss PTT is issuing a stamp jointly with a foreign postal administration continuing its well known Art series. France is releasing simultaneously with Switzerland a stamp identical in all respects except for the denomination in the national currency and the name of the country. The common subject is the work of Swiss artist Jean Tinguely of Neyruz. Called (Metamecanique), it is described as (a representation of a variety of movements in search of coincidence. The stamp has been produced by the French postage stamp printing works at Perigueux. On the day of issue, the postal services in Paris and Basle will operate jointly staffed special post offices.

*Members please renew your
1989 membership early.*