



# SIPA

## Bulletin

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Bimonthly

### SOUTH INDIA PHILATELISTS' ASSOCIATION

( Founded 1956 )

( Affiliated to the Philatelic Congress of India )

#### Editorial

#### SIPA Bulletin Completes a decade of Service

The first issue of SIPA Bulletin was published in July 1980 and I had the privilege of being its Hon. Editor since the inception to see a decade of its service. For this I am greatly indebted for the confidence shown in me by all the members, and for the guidance and help of senior members: Mr. V. N. S. Rau, Mr. F. P. Seervai, Mr. S. Ramaswamy, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, Mr. G. Balakrishna Das, Mr. D. H. Rao, Mr. U. Mohan Rao and others. In this connection I would be failing in my duty if I don't specially mention, Mr. G. Madan Mohan Das, who has shown so much of interest in the regular Publication of the Bulletin and for providing a number of articles for publication to make the Bulletin useful and interesting to readers. Again a special mention has to be made about our printers M/s. Kumaran Printing House Broadway, Madras and its proprietor Mr. C. V. Hariharan for his willing co-operation and for the help rendered by him for printing the Bulletins economically.

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

I am sure and full of hope that this Bulletin will continue its service and show improvements in every one of its strides in future also with the unstinted support and co-operation of all the members.

M. T. KARUNAKARAN,  
*Hon. Editor.*

#### Numismatics:

#### MINTEX-90 EXHIBITION

Mintex-90 Numismatics Exhibition was conducted at Nagpur on 28, 29 and 30 January '90. According to our member Mr. P. N. Chari, it was a very big show and infact, First All India Exhibition. Many a leading Numismatists in the country participated in the Exhibition. Two of the BIOPEX-89 participants from Madras Mr. Hariharaiya and Mr. Lazer along with two more SIPA Members including Mr. A. N. Chari won medals (3 Bronze and 1 Silver). The credit goes to SIPA also for its encouragement to members to exhibit their coins also separately in its Philatelic Exhibitions and SIPA is really pleased to note the success of its members.

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

#### 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.)

# THEMATIC COLLECTION

By S. P. CHATTERJEA

There is a wrong impression amongst the collectors that thematic collection is much easier than any other collection. In reality it is equally difficult and in some sense it is more difficult than other disciplines of philately as in this case you are to match appropriate philatelic items with the storyline of your theme.

To help the collectors the F.I.P. has laid down some regulations in building up thematic exhibits and prescribed exhaustive and comprehensive guidelines to follow. I have no doubt that all thematic collectors have been well acquainted with these guidelines which have been widely circulated through **SIGNET** and all other journals of philatelic clubs and associations.

The basic idea of these regulations and guidelines is how to evaluate the thematic exhibits in an uniform manner seriously taking into consideration both the thematic and philatelic knowledge of the exhibitor as projected in their exhibits. To achieve this, the following aspects are considered :

## **Thematic Element :**

1, How the theme has been treated through its structural Plan.

2) Whether the Plan is comprehensive in comparison with what is feasible on the same theme.

3) How the theme has finally been developed step by step in accordance with the Plan.

## **Philatelic Element :**

4) How the Philatelic knowledge has been revealed through the exhibit.

5) The Condition and Rarity of the materials selected for and used in the exhibit and lastly.

6) How the entire exhibit has been Presented.

To comply with these requirements I would like to stress in this brief note, on certain points which you would do well not to overlook them while preparing your collection.

1) First and foremost is to select a theme of your choice so that you may not have to leave it half way not feeling interested.

2) Secondly to have a thorough and accurate knowledge you will have to study all the authentic available literatures on your chosen theme. You cannot build up a collection otherwise. The deeper the knowledge the better you will be able to show your originality in the planned development of your theme.

3) To start a collection you must select not only an appropriate 'Title' but a realistic and specific one. Thus in selecting the title of the subject on prevention of infectious diseases 'History and Prevention of Diseases' will be more appropriate than 'Medical ecology in Philately'. The titles like 'Flowers on Stamps or 'Hands in Philately' should be avoided. In effect the title should clearly and precisely identify the plan.

4) The plan is the most important aspect of your collection. On it the originality and merit of your exhibit depends. The same theme can be developed in many ways as you think best. This would therefore clearly reflect the degree of your thematic knowledge.

4.1) The plan should be classified in divisions and major subdivisions covering correctly all the aspects of the theme in a comprehensive and consistent manner having close sequences to one another. More detailed sub-divisions if considered necessary may be shown at the exhibit page level.

4.2) It should be remembered that equal importance or so, should be given to each divisions so that the plan becomes a balanced one.

4.3) This a plan for thematic collection and as such no separate philatelic classifications like Stationery, Cancellations, covers should be incorporated in the plan. These philatelic items should be positioned at the appropriate places of the exhibit pages.

4.4) The plan should also indicate the number of pages you possess in your collection against each division and sub-division and also the number of pages you have selected for the exhibit in the competition according to the limited number of frames allotted to you. It would give a clear idea to the breadth of your actual treatment in comparison with what is feasible on the same theme.

5. Once the plan is complete, the exhibit pages should be developed with appropriate philatelic materials strictly in accordance with the divisions and major sub-divisions of the plan. As already informed if any further detailed sub-divisions are considered necessary they may be incorporated in the relevant pages.

5.1) It is important that pages should not be prepared only with the stamps. On each page other philatelic materials like postal stationery, franking meters cancellations, commemorative and other special postmarks, items used in other postal operations and items intended for issues or produced in the preparation of issue e.g. essays, proofs and colour trails should be included. 'Stamps only pages' will not give you any credit either for your philatelic knowledge and research. Your originality should be considered through your personal research as made visible by the selection of materials while developing your theme. Special attention should be paid to the sequence of the items in the page and to the relative description.

5.2) The selection of items should not confine to a specific geographical area but should be looked forward for the best items from the wide range of materials available on the theme at any geographical area and for any time period. If you are to show some inferior pieces for lack of availability, attempts should be made to replace them as early as possible. Special credit is given to items

which have not yet been researched for that theme or which have a thematic qualification which is not immediately obvious and needs to be discovered by the exhibitor.

5.3) Non philatelic items and items created for philatelic pleasure as also undesirable items like speculative issues, favour cancellations should not be used. Preference should be given to normal issues, genuinely cancelled stamps, genuinely transported items with correct postage, relevant to the theme. Items selected should have correct explanation of both the thematic and postal characteristics.

5.4) While using covers including First day covers, make sure that they have been used in post with proper postage and has a relevance to your theme. If the cancellation on the cover has no relevance to the theme, then it would be wise not to use that cover to waste the space. The mint stamp can serve the purpose. The printed matters and the addresses on the covers are 'Private' and should not be related with the theme. Use those covers where both the stamps and cancellations (legible) relate to the theme. Such covers with additional usages like Registered, Censored, disinfected will be more valuable.

6. The collection must be presented in a neat, clear and balanced way. Philatelic material rather than text, should highlight the development of the theme.

6.1) Texts on each page should have three elements:

a) sub-heading at the top as per the division and major sub-division of the plan.

b) thematic text, clear and concise supporting the development of the theme and also linking the various items displayed and

c) a short philatelic comment when the material is not self explanatory or there is real need to describe the philatelic research or special characteristics of the materials.

7. Since you are given a limited number of frames for exhibiting your collection you are to select from your collection the pages which have the best items, those which are

—(contd. on page 22)

# SEMINAR ON POSTAL HISTORY

By YOGESH KUMAR

Postal History is a most popular group and is a Combination of Entries, Covers and Postal Stationary. It has scope (Limited) for Postal documents and maps too. A Postal Historian should have Philatelic knowledge of the area, as well as geographical, linguistic and Political developments in the area and period under consideration.

The Special Rules for Evaluation of the Competitive exhibits at the Postal History Group gives the definition of Postal History as follows:

'A Postal History Exhibit is an exhibit of documents and Postal items, which have been carried by a Postal Service whether International, National, or local, Privately or Officially. Such exhibit should show routes, rates and markings and study of markings on covers or on stamps, used for the service or the marks of obliteration on Postal items'.

One could easily presume that it is (Postal History) the study of routes, rates and marking i.e., how much one had to pay to send his written communication, what was the route and (study) markings (to follow the route or if it is missent, then how it reached at it's destination).

The general definition of Postal History also includes the development of Postal markings or postmarks or macrophilily. Remember the Postal History started from Pre adhesive period to present. It is a bridge between adhesive postage stamp and Postal Stationary. So, it has no place for unused stamps or unused Postal stationery unless (they were) rates were discontinued before the issue. Thus Postal History has unique significance. Thus those of us who collected and exhibited hotel, advertising, patriotic, and veterinary advertising covers, were not displaying Postal History, but Thematic Postal History.

Now come to Judging,

The F.I.P. Commission has split the total marks into 4 following groups :

Treatment and Importance.

Knowledge and Research

Condition and Rarity.

Presentation.

**Treatment and Importance :** One should start his exhibit with "PLAN". This should explain what you are showing and what you want to prove. Jury looks for (Postal) History in your collection. And to show historical back-ground, one could include old maps or even draw it. This should show carriage of mail between two places, where they are or where they were. There should be marks of the important place or Post Office or Railway Stations.

Remember documents are good, but they should not be "too" much and must be related to the rates, routes and methods or the opening and closing of Post Offices.

**Importance :** It is immaterial what one collects. It is all important how one collects. Any collecting area, no matter how seemingly unimportant at first, becomes fascinating in proportion to the intellectual effort one puts into it, the more searching question one ask, the more intensively one works on it. The future of exhibit lies in the material that is put together by intellectual work.

But certainly there is difference in National and International exhibitions. The Postal History of a small town or area can be of importance in a National exhibition, but in an International, it will not stir the ground, and thus could not gain grade. So, you must choose your exhibit carefully.

**Knowledge and Research :** Remember, every PH collection is in fact a very advanced historical paper presented, not by a written or spoken text, but buy a factual frequently unique philatelic material. If you have already mentioned in your introductory page, about the periodicals, Journals, Books and other Philatelic and non Philatelic Literature, you are ready to present your collection and divide

your sheets into various "Sub-titles", definitely you will gain some Plus Points. Know well that Jury has limited time for your exhibit and these sheet Sub-titles will provide part of your knowledge or personal study to them.

A cover in which rate and route are clearly visible but not described by exhibitor, will lose marks. For example earlier letters from India to England marked the arrival Port's name, as well as "Postage to London Paid or Unpaid". In describing such covers, it is essential to mention the place of origin, internal rate and route, time taken by ship from India to England, and the money to be recovered from the addressee. And if the name of the ship is also mentioned by the exhibitor, then certainly he has proved his knowledge and Research. Another example, a cover with "Yellow Label", if it is not explained as where and when this label (Post Office and date) was affixed, then certainly exhibitor will have some disadvantage.

Similarly, in Postmark collection, exhibitor should mention the length of the Postmark used or if it was a travelling (Rail, Motor, Sea or Ship) Post Office or regular Post Office. During the Pacific war of 1879-81 between Chile, Peru and Bolivia, Produced many interesting items of Postal History and can be identified only by Postmarks.

Censored mail, Red Cross mail and P.O. Ws. mail some time has very interesting Postmarks, but all this should be linked with your title and introduction.

So, your write up should be balanced and it should not be an essay but precise. I would like to repeat the words of Franco Filanci who has written, "Descriptions are not needed in a traditional collection which simply illustrates the catalogue by presenting in reality those prices which the catalogue merely reproduces. But PH gives rise every time to an autonomous theme, of which in catalogue there is only a vague echo. In a word it shows the history, even if only a particular, perhaps very secondary aspect of it, of the history of the Post".

It is better if write up explains hidden points, rate for normal letter, and if more is paid, then mention how many times to the normal rate or Registration fee (if Registered) paid Postmark/Cancellation on the back of the cover, can be illustrated, if it is not displayed earlier.

**Condition and Rarity:** All the items displayed must be in very good condition of preservation, clean with legible postmarks and other postal markings. I mean, general appearance of the item must be pleasing. And if the condition is not good, then definitely exhibitor is in a disadvantageous position, except for the "Crash covers". Even in the case of crash covers, marking applied by the postal authorities should be clearly visible. But if a cover has more than dozen Postmarks, certainly all will not be clear, but it is an item worth displaying in Postal History collection.

Rarity does not mean you include only high catalogue items in your collection, as this will not secure high award for you. Your item should not only be unique but should fit in your a Postal History collection and be relevant to the subject shown. The first issue Postage stamp(s) must be there, showing different rates. This will not only fulfil the criteria of rarity, but importance too. Multiple example of first issues will definitely be better than single examples.

**Presentation:** I would like to remind you of INDIA 89 and if you compare Indian exhibits in Postal History Group with other exhibits of in the same Group our exhibits were not presented well, but the presentation of scandinavian countries was appealing. They had put all the philatelic items on Grey Card and then mounted it on album sheets. Same thing was with their write up. So, if you want to improve your collection, it is necessary to visit good Exhibitions and see all the exhibit of your interest. You will certainly learn a lot which, is some times, difficult to explain orally.

## PRESENTATION (contd. from January-February 1990)

Again there are **SPECIAL** Regulations for the Evaluation of Thematic Exhibits at F.I.P. Exhibitions (SREVs) which contains six Articles with subdivisions and which have been approved by the 54th F.I.P. Congress on 5th November 1985 in Rome and they have come into force where Exhibitions are held with F.I.P. Patronage, auspices or support. Equally in India also Exhibitions are conducted by the State Level, National and International are governed both by the General and Special Regulations of the F.I.P., it is obligatory on the part of the organisers to adopt these rules and the JURY are enjoined to utilise the new GREV & SREVs on a mandatory basis.

I once again emphasise the various details to be observed in PRESENTATION combining both the GREV & SREVs for the benefit of the listeners, exhibitors.

The efforts of the Exhibitor should be demonstrated by the arrangement on the items and the text on appropriate exhibition sheets. Presentation techniques (e.g. the mounting and framing of stamps and documents) should be consistent and neat throughout the pages. An individual page shall not be overcrowded or too empty. In order to avoid overcrowding, it is sufficient, in principal, to show only one item out of a long set (Stamp, or postal stationery, or cancellation etc. with the same design the use of several items with exactly the same design should be limited to special circumstances, e.g. :

- reasons for symmetry
- balance in the text
- specific thematic significance
- philatelic significance

In the case of very common items, the overcrowding of the pages with documents and postal stationery items can be avoided by showing the essential and philatelic parts. The choice between used and Mint stamps is left to the exhibitor. Inclusion of postally travelled items on a page does not imply that every stamp on the same page must be used.

Stamps used for describing the development should not be shown on documents without a relevant thematic cancellation, unless the document has a clear philatelic significance. The exhibitor should avoid showing covers where too many different stamps are not related to the theme, title of the collection on each page to be avoided, headings on each page should identify the arrangement of the subdivisions of the plan and summarize the content of the page, introduction and plan page should be precise and methodical.

For the thematic exhibits, the following relative terms are presented to lead the Jury to a balanced evaluation :

Treatment	25 (Plan 20, Size 5)
Development or the Theme	25
Philatelic knowledge	20
Condition & Rarity	25
Presentation	5
Total	<u>100</u>

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### THEMATIC COLLECTION.....

(contd. from page 18)

best presented and those which show the depth of your original research ensuring the continuity in the storyline of your theme.

8. You should understand that the highest awards are obtained with a long and sincere efforts based on research and dedication. This is a continued process of personal study and research for improvement. Thematic research will enable you to add other items and change the development and the philatelic findings will encourage you for further research on the theme. This is the charm of the thematic collection.

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— By courtesy of Indo-Soviet Philatelic Club  
Magazine.

# STAMP NEWS

sponsored by Sri Tirunal Sabha, Forts  
Trivandrum-696023.

## I NEW ISSUES

1. On the occasion of the 23rd Annual General Conference of Asian Development Bank, being held in New Delhi. Multicolour, 200 p - 2-5-90.

2. The Penny Black - first adhesive postage stamp introduced by Sir Rowland Hill in England on May 6, 1840 - is 150 years old. Multicolour, 600 p - 6-5-90.

3. Vietnam and India have had close ties and a lot of common ground in their respective histories. India commemorates the birth centenary of the founding father of Vietnam-Ho Chi Minn. 2 colour, 200p-19-5-90.

4. Chaudhary Charan Singh: Former Prime Minister, Champion of the farmers' cause, Charan Singh is remembered on his 2nd Death Anniversary, Single Colour, 100p-29-5-90.

## II. SPECIAL CANCELLATIONS.

1. Special cancellation is being provided on 29-4-1990 on the occasion of 177th Festival of Sri Swati Tirunal at the Thiruvananthapuram P O. - 695001. The cancellation is

2. On the occasion of the International Athiratha Yagnam, this special cancellation will be provided on 2-5-1990 at Kuzhur P.O.-680734, Kerala.

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## P. C. I. NEWS

### IMPORT OF STAMPS AND PHILATELIC ACCESSORIES

The suggestion of P.C.I. for inclusion of stamps and Philatelic accessories in the O.G.L. list for allowing to import them freely for the benefit of Philatelists or allowing necessary foreign exchange to the philatelists for purchasing these items for their requirements, from other countries, has now been agreed by the Ministry of Commerce in a meeting held recently, to permit the import of stamps & accessories by the philatelists upto Rs. 10,000 in a year in O.G.L. Category, subject to certain conditions

— SIGNED-October-December 1989.